



## Trump suspends arms treaty, citing Chinese, Russian threats

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks at a news conference at the State Department in Washington, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

By DEB RIECHMANN, ROBERT BURNS and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is pulling the plug on a decades-old nuclear arms treaty

with Russia, lifting what it sees as unreasonable constraints on competing with a resurgent Russia and a

more assertive China. The move announced Friday sets the stage for delicate talks with U.S. allies over po-

tential new American missile deployments.

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# Trump health chief asks Congress to pass drug discount plan

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration's top health official asked Congress on Friday to pass its new prescription drug discount plan and provide it to all patients, not just those covered by government programs like Medicare.

The plan would take now-hidden rebates among industry players like drug companies and insurers and channel them directly to consumers when they go to pay for their medications.

Patients with high drug co-pays stand to benefit from the proposal, while people who take no prescription drugs, or who rely on generics mainly, would probably pay somewhat more, since premiums are expected to rise.

A day after unveiling the plan as a proposed regulation, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar raised the stakes by calling on Congress to make it law and broaden it to include people covered by employer health insurance, not just Medicare



In this Oct. 26, 2018, file photo Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar speaks about proposed reforms to Medicare Part B drug pricing policies at the Brookings Institute in Washington. Associated Press

and Medicaid beneficiaries.

"Congress has an opportunity to follow through on their calls for transparency ... by passing our proposal into law immediately and extending it into the commercial drug market," Azar said in a speech at the Bipartisan Policy Center think

tank.

Ahead of next week's State of the Union speech, President Donald Trump is under political pressure to show results for his promise to slash prescription drug costs. Data show that prices for brand-name drugs have continued to rise, though at a somewhat slower pace. Polls show consumers across the political spectrum want government action.

Democrats say the administration's plan doesn't go far enough because it still leaves drug companies free to set high list prices. They say drug pricing is like a black box, and it's impossible to tell if prices reflect actual costs or if companies are charging what they think the market will bear.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., says she's also worried that the plan would raise premiums. HHS acknowledges Medicare prescription premiums would go up \$3 to \$5 a month. Nonetheless, the administration's proposal appears to be in the mix as Congress gears up to craft legislation addressing prescription drug costs.

The complex plan would work by doing away with an exemption from federal anti-kickback rules that currently allows drugmakers,

insurers and middlemen called pharmacy benefit managers to negotiate rebates among themselves. Drug companies pay rebates to make sure their medications are covered by insurance plans that are the intermediaries between them and patients. HHS says hidden rebates can amount to up to 30 percent of a drug's list price. Insurers say they use the money from rebates to hold down premiums for all consumers.

Under the plan, the current anti-kickback exemption for industry rebates would be replaced with a new one for discounts offered directly to consumers.

Azar said the idea would reshape the drug pricing system, shifting it away from hidden rebates to upfront discounts, creating pressure on drugmakers to keep prices down. The proposal was co-authored with the HHS inspector general's office.

Experts say it will take time to sort out all the potential consequences.

Peter Bach, director of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, said the current system of rebates harms patients who take costly drugs with high copays.

Think people with cancer, patients with intractable illnesses such as multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis, and those who take brand-name medicines with no generic competition. Patients' cost sharing is often based on list prices, not the cost of the drug after rebates.

"Simply put, those on no medications at all will just see their premiums go up and see no savings because they don't take any medicine," said Bach. "Those on generics only may be essentially in this category (as well).

"But those on expensive medications ... they will see savings in total," he added. More than half a million people filled at least \$50,000 in prescriptions in 2014, according to an Express Scripts report.

Insurers and pharmacy benefit managers like Express Scripts and CVS oppose the administration plan, saying it will undercut their ability to bargain with drugmakers for lower prices.

Drugmakers have applauded the administration's action.

Consumers are worried about prices for brand-name drugs, particularly new medications that promise breakthrough results. Generics account for nearly 90 percent of prescriptions filled, but brand-name drugs account for more than 70 percent of the spending. Azar contends that under the current system everybody but the patient benefits from high prices. A high list price makes room for bigger negotiated rebates for insurers and middlemen. And drugmakers then merely build that expectation into their prices.

Before joining the Trump administration, Azar was a top executive for drug-maker Eli Lilly. That led to criticism that he would be an industry pawn. But the drugmakers vehemently disagree with some of his other ideas, including an experiment using lower international drug prices to cut some Medicare costs. □

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State Department deputy spokesperson Robert Palladino stands on stage with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as he speaks at a news conference at the State Department in Washington, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

#### Continued from Front

In explaining his decision, which he had foreshadowed months ago, President Donald Trump accused Moscow of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with "impunity" by deploying banned missiles. Moscow denies it is in violation and has accused Washington of resisting its efforts to resolve the dispute.

Democrats in Congress and some arms control advocates criticized Trump's decision as opening the door to an arms race.

"The U.S. threat to terminate the treaty will not bring Russia back into compliance and could unleash a dangerous and costly new missile competition between the United States and Russia in Europe and beyond," the private Arms Control Association said. It argued that Washington had not exhausted options for drawing Russia back into compliance.

Trump said in a statement

that the U.S. will "move forward" with developing its own military response options to Russia's banned deployment of cruise missiles that could target western Europe.

"We cannot be the only country in the world unilaterally bound by this treaty, or any other," Trump said. Other officials said the treaty could still be saved if Russia reverses course and returns to compliance, but that window of opportunity will close in six months when the American withdrawal is due to take effect.

The Trump decision reflects his administration's view that the arms treaty was an unacceptable obstacle to more forcefully confronting not only Russia but also China. China's military has grown mightily since the treaty was signed, and the pact has prevented the U.S. from deploying weapons to counter some of those being developed in Beijing.

Leaving the INF pact, however, risks aggravating rela-

tions with European allies, who share the administration's view that Russia is violating the treaty but who have not endorsed a U.S. withdrawal.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking to reporters after Trump's statement, said Russia will be formally notified on Saturday that the U.S. is withdrawing from the treaty, effective in six months. In the meantime, starting Saturday, the U.S. will suspend its obligations under the treaty.

Pompeo said that if, in the coming six months, Russia accepts U.S. demands that it verifiably destroy the cruise missiles that Washington claims are a violation, then the treaty can be saved. If it does not, "the treaty terminates," he said. Administration officials have dismissed concerns that the treaty's demise could trigger a race to develop and deploy more intermediate-range missiles. U.S. officials have emphasized their fear that China, which is not party to the treaty, is gaining a significant military advantage in Asia by deploying large numbers of missiles with ranges beyond the treaty's limit. Whether the U.S. will now respond by deploying INF noncompliant missiles in Asia is unclear. In any case, it seems unlikely Beijing would agree to any negotiated limits on its weaponry. Russia accused the U.S. of unilaterally seeking to neuter the treaty.

"I 'congratulate' the whole world; the United States has taken another step toward its destruction today," said Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in Russia's upper

house of parliament.

INF was the first arms control measure to ban an entire class of weapons: ground-launched cruise missiles with a range between 500 kilometers (310 miles) and 5,500 kilometers (3,400 miles). At the time, in the late stages of the Cold War, the U.S. and its allies were mainly concerned by the perceived threat of Russian medium-range nuclear missiles that were targeted at Europe. The U.S. deployed similar missiles in response, in the 1980s, leading to negotiations that produced the INF treaty. Rep. Adam Smith, a Washington state Democrat and new chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, blasted Trump for raising the risk of nuclear war. "The administration's ideological aversion to arms control as a tool for advancing national security is endangering our safety, as well as that of our allies and partners," Smith said. "The risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding is already higher than at any point since the end of the Cold War, and this decision only makes it worse."

U.S. officials say they have little reason to think Moscow will change its stance in the next six months.

"We have raised Russia's noncompliance with Russian officials — including at the highest levels of government — more than 30 times," Pompeo said. "We have provided Russia an ample window of time to mend its way. Tomorrow that time runs out."

Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO secretary-general, said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that Rus-

sia can still save the treaty by returning to compliance before the U.S. withdrawal takes effect.

"But at the same time, we have started to assess the consequences, look into options," Stoltenberg said. "We need to make sure that we respond as an alliance, all 29 allies, because all allies are involved and all allies are affected."

Trump said his administration will move forward with developing military response options. But senior Trump administration officials said they don't expect any immediate testing or deployment of weapons that are banned under the treaty. The current Pentagon budget includes \$48 million for research on potential military responses to the alleged Russian violations, but U.S. officials said the options do not include a nuclear missile.

The officials, speaking after Trump's announcement, said the U.S. is not in position to flight test, let alone deploy, INF noncompliant missiles as a counter to Russia any time soon. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

One official said allies will be consulted before any decisions are made on responding to any Russian missiles.

Leaving the treaty would allow the Trump administration to counter the Chinese, but it's unclear how it would do that. U.S. security concerns are complicated by what U.S. intelligence officials earlier this week called efforts by China and Russia to expand their global influence, particularly in Asia and the Middle East. □



# New Jersey Democratic Sen. Cory Booker launches 2020 bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Cory Booker on Friday declared his bid for the presidency in 2020 with a sweeping call to unite a deeply polarized nation around a "common sense of purpose."

The New Jersey Democrat, who is the second black candidate in a primary field that's already historically diverse, delivered his message of unity amid an era marked by bitter political division. He announced his run on the first day of Black History Month, underscoring his consequential status as America's potential second black president after Barack Obama.

"I believe that we can build a country where no one is forgotten, no one is left behind; where parents can put food on the table; where there are good-paying jobs with good benefits in every neighborhood; where our criminal justice system keeps us safe, instead of shuffling more children into cages and coffins; where we see the faces of our leaders on television and feel pride, not shame," Booker said in a video message to supporters, subtly jabbing at President Donald Trump.



U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-NJ, leaves ABC studios in New York after an appearance on The View, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

"It is not a matter of can we, it's a matter of do we have the collective will, the American will?" he added. "I believe we do."

Booker enters what's shaping up to be a crowded presidential primary, with three of his fellow Democratic senators — Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kamala Harris of California and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York — already either declared or exploring a

run. But he's spent months telegraphing his intentions to join the race, visiting the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina to build connections with key powerbrokers. He already has slated trips back to those states later this month.

Booker began reaching out to key constituencies on Friday, calling in to three radio shows popular with black and Hispanic listen-

ers. He spoke in fluent Spanish during his interview with Univision, vowing to work closely with "the Latino community," and discussed his support for marijuana legalization in another interview.

A former mayor of Newark, New Jersey's largest city, Booker spoke to reporters outside his home there on Friday and acknowledged that his optimistic tone may not resonate with some

Democratic voters. But "love ain't easy," he added. The senator also weighed in on strategies to achieve universal health care that have shaken up the early Democratic field, saying that he would not eliminate the private insurance industry outright — a stance his rival and friend, California Sen. Kamala Harris, recently took heat for appearing to endorse during a televised town hall.

Booker won a special Senate election in 2013 to replace Democrat Frank Lautenberg and then won a full Senate term in 2014. He will be able to run for a second full Senate term in 2020 while running for president, thanks to a law that New Jersey's governor signed in November.

But that doesn't mean the 49-year-old lawmaker's path to the nomination will be easy. As many as five more Democratic senators could soon mount their own primary bids, creating a competition for voters' attention, and several of Booker's rival presidential hopefuls bring higher name recognition to a race that may also feature popular former Vice President Joe Biden. □



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam prepares to address a news conference at the Capitol in Richmond, Va., Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

By ALAN SUDERMAN  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam acknowledged Friday that he appears in a photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page that shows a person in blackface and another wearing a Ku Klux Klan robe.

The revelation of the photograph prompted some Republicans to call for his resignation. Northam quickly apologized.

The Democratic governor confirmed in a statement that he was in the photo wearing a costume "that is clearly racist and offensive." Northam did not say

## Virginia governor apologizes for racist imagery in yearbook

which costume he was wearing.

"This behavior is not in keeping with who I am today and the values I have fought for throughout my career in the military, in medicine, and in public service. But I want to be clear, I understand how this decision shakes Virginians' faith in that commitment," he said.

Republican state Sen. Bryce Reeves said in a statement that Northam should resign if the reports of the photos are accurate.

"I hope that this picture is inaccurate and that the Governor brings clarity to this issue. This has no place in Virginia," Reeves said.

If Northam were to resign,

Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, who is African-American, would assume the governor's office.

For now, Northam's close allies haven't said anything publicly. Democratic Sen. Jennifer McClellan, a well-known African-American lawmaker from Richmond, just shook her head when approached by a reporter seeking comment.

The Virginian-Pilot obtained a copy of the photo Friday from Eastern Virginia Medical School library, which Northam attended. The photo shows two people looking at the camera — one in blackface wearing a hat, bow tie and plaid pants; the other in white Klan robes.

The yearbook images were first published by the conservative news outlet Big League Politics. An Associated Press reporter saw the yearbook page and confirmed its authenticity at the medical school.

Northam, a folksy pediatric neurologist who is personal friends with many GOP lawmakers, has recently come under fire from Republicans who have accused him of backing infanticide after he said he supported a bill loosening restrictions on late-term abortions. Last week, Florida's secretary of state resigned after photos from a 2005 Halloween party showed him in blackface while dressed as a Hurricane Katrina victim. □



# Human toll of cold: more than 2 dozen dead, hundreds hurt

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and TAMMY WEBBER

Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — The dangerous cold and heavy snow that hobbled the northern U.S. this week has retreated, but not before exacting a human toll: more than two dozen weather-related deaths in eight states and hundreds of injuries, including frostbite, broken bones, heart attacks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

In Illinois alone, hospitals reported more than 220 cases of frostbite and hypothermia since Tuesday, when the polar vortex moved in and overnight temperatures plunged to minus 30 (minus 34 Celsius) or lower — with wind chills of minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse in some areas. Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis normally sees around 30 frostbite patients in an entire winter. It admitted 18 in the past week, spokeswoman Christine Hill said Friday.

"I definitely saw more frostbite than I've ever seen in my entire career just in the last three days," said Dr. Andrea Rowland-Fischer, an emergency department physician at Hennepin Healthcare.

Most of those patients, she said, had underlying problems that made it difficult for them to take care of themselves: the developmentally delayed, the mentally ill, the very young and the very old. They also included people with injuries related to drugs and alcohol — people who passed out or did not realize they were cold or injured.

"It's heartbreaking when there are people who can't take care of themselves and get exposed, just because they either escape from the care that they're being given or because they're not being supervised."

Others got frostbite on their way to work after being exposed to the cold for a short time, often on their hands, feet, ears and face. That included people whose cars would not start or who got stuck outside

for other reasons, as well as those who just did not think they could get frostbitten so quickly and went outside without gloves or other protective gear.

Several required "maximal treatment," admission to the hospital's burn unit for therapies that include drugs to restore circulation to try to avoid amputations. Some of them will probably still require amputations, a decision usually made by burn doctors four to 10 days after the injury. Many people decided to stay home even when they were sick to avoid slippery roads and subzero temperatures. In western Michigan, a health care system's online service saw a major spike this week.

More than 400 people over four days used Spectrum Health's MedNow to see a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant about non-emergency issues, such as aches, rashes, cold and flu, said Joe Brennan, MedNow senior director. Most used an app on their phone. The usual four-day volume is 250.

"We had soreness-and-sickness calls from people who were shoveling 2 ½ feet of snow," Brennan said. "Instead of going to urgent care or an emergency department, they had an option to stay at home."

Another danger was from carbon monoxide. A family of nine in Wheeling, Illinois, about 30 miles northwest of Chicago, was taken to local hospitals after heating their home with a charcoal grill. In Rockford, Illinois, four people were treated because they had warmed up cars in a closed garage or because a furnace vent became blocked by ice and snow.

The snow that accompanied the cold also caused problems.

In Raymond, New Hampshire, the driver of a state Department of Transportation vehicle was struck in the head Thursday after ice and snow flew off a truck ahead and broke through the windshield.

The driver was hospitalized with a laceration to the

head and other possible injuries.

In just a two-day period, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mercyhealth in Rockford treated 15 people for broken bones from falling on the ice, 10 people who were in car crashes caused by snow and eight people who complained of chest pain or shortness of breath from shoveling snow, hospital officials said.

Rockford broke recorded a record low of minus 31 degrees Thursday, but the hospital only treated two cases of frostbite, emergency physician Dr. John Pakiela said.

"It was Antarctica there for a few days ... but I think people listened to professional advice and heeded warnings," about staying



In this Jan 30, 2019, file photo, a firefighter walks past an ice-encrusted home after an early morning house fire in St. Paul, Minn. Associated Press

indoors or bundling up, he said.

By Friday, the deep freeze had mostly abated, with temperatures climbing as high as the low 20s (minus 5 or 6 Celsius) in Minneapolis and Chicago. In western

North Dakota, the temperature in Dickinson climbed above freezing (0 Celsius) by midmorning — a jump of nearly 60 degrees compared with Tuesday's low of minus 17 degrees (minus 27 Celsius). □



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# Family made billions on opioid as crisis raged, filing says



In this Aug. 17, 2018 file photo, family and friends who have lost loved ones to OxyContin and opioid overdoses protest outside Purdue Pharma headquarters in Stamford, Conn.

Associated Press

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER  
and GEOFF MULVIHILL  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — The family behind OxyContin raked in billions of dollars as it pushed to keep patients on the powerful painkiller longer despite evidence that the drug was helping to fuel the nation's deadly opioid crisis, Massachusetts authorities allege in newly public court documents. While aggressively marketing OxyContin, the Sackler

family also sought to profit off the drug abuse crisis its company helped create by exploring selling drugs used to treat addiction and reverse overdoses, state lawyers contend in previously secret parts of their lawsuit against Purdue Pharma.

Attorney General Maura Healey is suing Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma, along with some company executives and members of the wealthy Sackler fam-

ily, in an effort to hold them accountable for the toll of the state's drug crisis. Massachusetts' is the first state case to personally name members of the Sackler clan, whose name is emblazoned on walls at some of the world's great museums and universities.

Purdue had fought to keep the new allegations secret, but three courts ruled against the company. Its lawyers said after the wholly unredacted complaint was released late Thursday that Massachusetts is trying to "single out Purdue, blame it for the entire opioid crisis, and try the case in the court of public opinion rather than the justice system."

Health officials say nearly 48,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2017 involved some type of opioid, including illicit drugs.

Massachusetts accuses Purdue of keeping track of doctors who were potentially overprescribing OxyContin, but failing to report them to authorities. In 2012, one Purdue employee told an executive that the company should tell insurance companies the names of the doctors suspected of illegal prescribing, calling it the "right and ethical thing to do."

"If it reduces abuse and diversion of opioids then it

seems like something we should be doing," the employee wrote in an email. The executive rejected the employee's suggestion, and the secret list of the suspected illegal prescribers, known as "Region Zero," continued to be kept, lawyers say in the complaint. The lawsuit, filed in state court, also details tactics that the state says Purdue and the Sacklers used to keep patients on the drugs longer and get more patients taking higher doses — even as that made them more prone to addiction. Meanwhile, the Sacklers paid themselves more than \$4 billion from 2007 through last year, according to the lawsuit.

Richard Sackler, who served as Purdue president for several years, told management in a 2008 email that they should "measure our performance by Rx's by strength, giving higher measures to higher strengths."

Years later, the state says in the suit, consulting firm McKinsey & Co. advised Purdue that it could increase opioid prescriptions by sending sales reps dozens of times per year to visit prolific prescribers.

The Sackler family was given a report in 2012 that found savings cards to help pay for OxyContin led to 60 percent more patients using the drug for more than three months. An internal company report from that year found that every dollar invested in the savings cards brought in more than \$4 in additional sales.

In 2014 and 2015, Purdue considered selling suboxone, a drug used to treat addiction, the lawsuit says. "It is an attractive market," an internal memo read, according to the suit.

The company later explored selling naloxone — known by its brand name Narcan — which reverses overdoses, the state's lawyers contend. A presentation made to the board in 2016 said that Narcan could bring in \$24 million in sales to Purdue through 2025, the complaint says.

"Purdue's analysis of the

market for Narcan confirmed that they saw the opioid epidemic as a money-making opportunity and that the Sacklers understood — in private, when no one was watching — how Purdue's opioids put patients at risk," attorneys for Massachusetts wrote.

Purdue said the lawsuit is taking pieces of company documents out of context. "Massachusetts seeks to publicly vilify Purdue, its executives, employees and directors while unfairly undermining the important work we have taken to address the opioid addiction crisis," the company said in an email.

The company said it was doing due diligence on buying rights to the anti-addiction drug, which was already on the market. Purdue never went into the suboxone or naloxone business.

The suit is one of more than 1,000 by state and local governments pending against Purdue. A federal judge in Cleveland overseeing lawsuits filed in federal court is pushing for a settlement aimed at stemming the crisis.

Massachusetts lawyers say while the company was secretly considering ways to profit off trying to cure addictions, it was while publicly deflecting blame for the crisis. For instance, Richard Sackler said in an email at one point that the company had to "have to hammer on the abusers," calling them "the problem" and "reckless criminals."

Jonathan Novak, a Dallas lawyer who is representing several governments, including the state of Utah and the city of Albuquerque, in lawsuits against the drug industry, said the Massachusetts lawsuit could provide a roadmap of documents for other plaintiffs. Novak said the state's approach is important to the telling of the opioid crisis story.

"These are the people who invented the drug," he said. "These are people who blame patients who got addicted and call them criminals."q



# Top U.S cardinal let priest accused of sexual abuse lead Mass

By NOMAAN MERCHANT  
Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — The cardinal who leads the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops allowed a priest to celebrate Mass the same day his name was among those released on a list of clergy credibly accused of sexual abuse.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo told the Rev. John T. Keller on Wednesday evening that he would be placed on administrative leave the next day, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston said in a statement Friday.

DiNardo allowed Keller to lead the 9 a.m. Thursday Mass at his parish, the statement said, because Keller "was already scheduled to celebrate" it.

Hours later, Keller was listed among 40 members of the clergy as having been removed from ministry due to "recent allegations currently under investigation." Fourteen dioceses in Texas on Thursday named those credibly accused of abuse, identifying 286 priests and others accused of sexually abusing children.

Michael Norris, a member of the advocacy group

Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, accused DiNardo Friday of "waiting until the last minute to remove" Keller because he knew the case was getting media attention.

Letting Keller celebrate Mass on Thursday morning was "nonsense," Norris said. "The idea is when you remove someone from ministry, you remove someone from ministry," Norris said. "You remove the accused immediately."

As head of the Catholic bishops, DiNardo has shaped the U.S. Catholic Church's response to the clergy abuse crisis and met with Pope Francis about the issue.

At the same time, his handling of cases in Houston has come under question. Another local priest, Rev. Manuel La Rosa-Lopez, was charged in September with four counts of indecency with a child. Two people who said La Rosa-Lopez victimized them told The Associated Press that they felt DiNardo didn't do enough to stop La Rosa-Lopez, who was also on the list released Thursday.

DiNardo and the arch-

diocese said they recently received new allegations against Keller.

But allegations that Keller let a 16-year-old boy drink alcohol and then fondled him have been public since at least 2003, when The Dallas Morning News reported that Keller was ordered to undergo counseling "to ensure he is not at risk for any future inappropriate behavior."

According to the newspaper, Catholic officials in Houston said then that the conduct "did not fit for it to be identified as sexual abuse" and let Keller remain at his parish, Prince of Peace Catholic Community in northwest Houston.

CBS News broadcast an in-



In this Nov. 13, 2017, file photo, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks at a news conference during the USCCB's annual fall meeting in Baltimore.

Associated Press

terview with the man in November and another interview Thursday with a second person who accused Keller of touching him inappropriately when he was 8. The archdiocese declined to comment on Keller's case beyond its statement,

in which it said it had reported allegations against Keller to civil authorities and that it encouraged victims to cooperate with any investigation.

Keller was still listed as Prince of Peace's pastor on the parish's website Friday. □

## Report: ICE doesn't always hold contractors accountable

**PHOENIX (AP)** — A government report has found that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency doesn't always hold contractors who care for detained immigrants accountable.

The report by the Office of the Inspector General dated Tuesday found ICE doesn't routinely impose financial penalties on contractors for deficiencies such as failing to report problems such as sexual assaults or misconduct to the agency.

The government report specifically focused on the use of quality assurance plans built into ICE con-

tracts with private companies or governments. ICE contracts out most of its detention services.

The inspector general found only 28 of the 106 facilities it investigated had such plans in their contracts. ICE has more than 200 facilities that detain immigrants, but not all were included in this report.

"Instead of holding facilities accountable through financial penalties, ICE issued waivers to facilities with deficient conditions, seeking to exempt them from having to comply with certain detention standards," the report states. □



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# Ex-Ivory Coast leader released by international court

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Ivory Coast's ex-president and a former youth minister were released from International Criminal Court custody Friday, more than two weeks after they were acquitted of involvement in deadly violence that erupted after their country's 2010 election.

Judge Chile Eboe-Osui said that former President Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Ble Goude should be freed under conditions intended "to protect the integrity of the process." Prosecutors are expected to appeal their acquittals.

Gbagbo, who smiled broadly and waved to supporters in the court's gallery after the ruling, was released Friday evening along with Ble Goude. They were taken to an undisclosed location.

Eboe-Osui instructed court officials to identify a country willing to accept Gbagbo and Ble Goude and to look into "interim measures"



In this Wednesday Jan. 16, 2019, file image supporters of former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo celebrate outside the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

Associated Press

that could be taken in the meantime.

Among the conditions imposed, the men must pledge to return to court if they are told to, turn in their passports and not leave the country that agrees to

house them, report weekly to police or the court and not contact witnesses or talk to the press about their case.

Gbagbo had been in custody at the court since November 2011. Ble Goude

was jailed nearly five years ago.

Jubilant supporters danced and chanted "Released!" in French outside the court.

"We are very happy for Mr. Ble Goude and his family that he's finally released,"

his lawyer Geert-Jan Knoops told reporters at the court. He said Ble Goude likely would be released Friday evening, but it was not clear where or when.

Prosecution lawyers had urged judges to release the men only with conditions to ensure they return to the court for their appeals phase. Defense lawyers had urged their immediate, unconditional release.

Gbagbo's lawyer, Emmanuel Altit, told judges: "His innocence has been recognized by the judges and it is impossible to limit the freedom of an innocent person."

Trial judges at first ordered the immediate release of Gbagbo and Ble Goude after their Jan. 15 acquittals, but they have remained jailed amid wrangling over whether judges should impose conditions on their freedom or even keep them in detention if it proved impossible to release them with conditions. □

# Italy's Salvini backs EU train line opposed by govt partner

By COLLEEN BARRY  
Associated Press

**MILAN (AP)** — Italian Deputy Premier Matteo Salvini said he supports a review of a high-speed railway project stalled by protests for decades but thinks the project should be completed despite opposition to it by his government coalition partner, the 5-Star Movement.

The TAV line — the Lyon-to-Turin section of a larger EU project connecting southern EU nations with eastern Europe — is proving to be another source of tension within the Italian government ahead of European Parliament elections in May that could rebalance power in the coalition.

Italy also risks another dispute with neighboring France, with which it has clashed recently over migration and the 5-Stars' support for France's anti-government yellow vests activists.

During a snowy visit to Chiomonte in Turin, where



Italian Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, visits the construction site of a high-speed railway project in Chiomonte, near Turin, Italy, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

workers have been digging a tunnel for the high-speed train project, Salvini noted that 25 kilometers (15 miles) of tunnel have already been cleared.

"Turning back will cost us as much as going ahead," he said, in reference to the penalties Italy would face

from partners if it pulls out. But a 5-Star spokesman in parliament, Francesco Silvestri, shot back that the train tunnel work had hardly been started.

"Salvini went to see the TAV construction site. But is it only a 5-meter hole that was necessary to study if

the project is doable," Silvestri said.

The Turin-Lyon Observatory, a government office, says 28.9 kilometers (18 miles) of a total of 162 kilometers (100 miles) of tunnel have been completed, 7 kilometers (4.4 miles) in Italy and the rest in France.

The tunnel, including two parallel tubes and connecting chambers, itself will be 57 kilometers (35.4 miles) long, making it a critical link in a wider EU project.

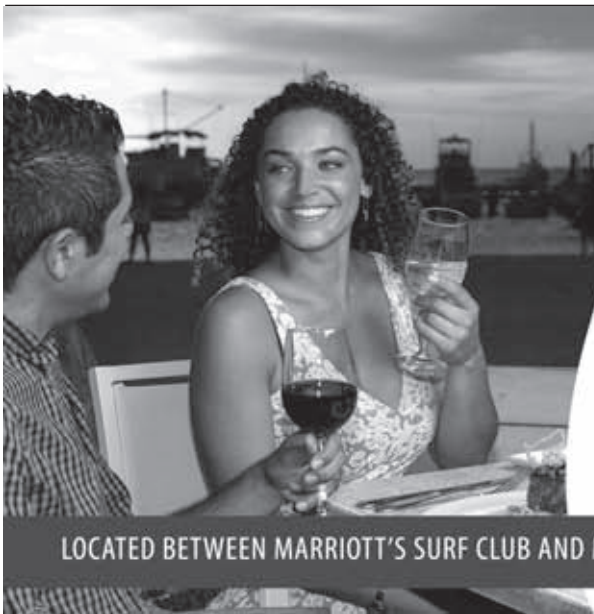
Italy's new populist government suspended the rail line work in July for a study, but the project has been beset by many previous delays due to protests.

The 5-Star Movement has long opposed the project as too costly and initially as environmentally damaging.

While the No-TAV movement has long been a fixture of the Italian protest scene, with violent clashes in 2005, entrepreneurs who are a big part of Salvini's League party base have begun to push the necessity of the high-speed rail.

France also has an interest in completing the tunnel, which would serve both freight and passenger trains, reducing the travel time from Milan-to-Paris from seven hours to 4 1/2 hours. □





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## Iran begins marking 40th anniversary of Islamic Revolution

By **NASSER KARIMI**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran on Friday began celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed shah, overturned 2,500 years of monarchical rule and brought hard-line Shiite clerics to power.

The climactic events that year — from revolutionaries in the streets of Tehran to blindfolded American hostages in the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis months later — not only changed Iran's history but also helped shape today's Middle East. The festivities start every year on Feb. 1 — the day Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned home from France after 14 years in exile, to become the su-



This Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, photo, shows the shrine of Iran's revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, just outside of Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

preme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Across Iran, sirens wailed from trains and boats, while church bells tolled at 9:33 a.m. — the exact time that Khomeini's chartered Air

France Boeing 747 touched down 40 years ago at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

The festivities, known as the "Ten Days of Dawn," conclude on Feb. 11, the date

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's government collapsed after brief clashes between some army units and revolutionary gunmen, following nationwide protests.

As part of the celebrations, many Tehran buildings, mostly government institutions and offices, were draped in the colors of Iran's green, white and red flag while multicolored lights decorated the main streets.

Car drivers turned on their headlights and honked in celebration as helicopters dropped clusters of flowers along Khomeini's 21-mile route from the airport to the Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran where he made his first speech

back home and where his tomb stands today.

Iranian officials — including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani — paid homage Wednesday at Khomeini's tomb "to renew allegiance" to him.

At a ceremony at the tomb Friday, Ahmad Jan-nati, head of a constitutional watchdog that vets candidates for presidential and parliamentary elections, slammed what he described as U.S. psychological warfare against Iran in the form of "cruel sanctions."

"The enemies today have targeted the economy" to make Iranians feel pessimistic about Islam, said Jan-nati, a hard-line cleric. □

## Palestinians, Israeli troops clash in West Bank, Gaza

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Palestinian protesters and Israeli troops skirmished Friday as hundreds demonstrated against violence by Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and thousands more against a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

In Gaza, mass demonstrations along the perimeter fence with Israel have been a weekly routine over the past 10 months. In the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority holds limited sway, the protest was sparked by the killing of a Palestinian at al-Mughayyir village last Saturday, which the Palestinians blamed on

the settlers.

Ashraf al-Kidra, spokesman for the Health Ministry, said 32 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire at several sections along the fence Friday.

Earlier on Friday, mediators from Egypt and the United Nations, worried that the border violence could evolve into an all-out conflict between Hamas and Israel, met with leaders of the militant group.

Ismail Haniyeh, the militant group's chief, described the meeting as "unprecedented" but did not elaborate.

Hamas on Friday accused Israel of not honoring an unofficial truce agreement to gradually ease

the blockade and vowed to escalate the protests, which have seen the death of nearly 190 Palestinians since they were launched in the spring.

In the village of al-Mughayyir, hundreds of demonstrators waving Palestinian flags rallied, hurling stones at Israeli forces and burning tires.

The Israeli army said it responded with "riot dispersal means," referring to tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that seven Palestinians were injured.

The circumstances that led to the death of Hamdi Naasan, 38, last Saturday remain in dispute, with Pal-



Palestinian medics move a wounded youth, who was shot by Israeli troops during a protest at the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, into the treatment room of Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

estinians saying that Israeli settlers shot him and settlers contending they fired in the air to chase away at-

tackers after a Jewish man was stabbed. The Israeli police and military have launched investigations. □



# Russia angry, Europe worried after US announces treaty exit

By JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian politicians accused the United States on Friday of undermining global security by ending compliance with a nuclear arms treaty, while NATO said Russia was at fault for the pact's demise and European countries watched with dismay. The U.S. announced it would stop observing the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty as of Saturday and would withdraw within six months from the pact, a cornerstone of international security since 1987.

The treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union bans the development, deployment and testing of land-based nuclear weapons with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310-3400 miles). Moscow and Washington have for years traded claims of the other party being in violation.

Before Friday's announce-



German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, right, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, left, and Jeremy Hunt, United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, stand during statements at a Gymnich meeting of EU foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

ment, the United States alleged that a new Russian missile breached the treaty. Russia in turn accused

the United States of unilaterally seeking to neuter the agreement and of resisting Russian attempts to resolve

the dispute.

"I 'congratulate' the whole world; the United States has taken another step toward

its destruction today," Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of Russia's parliament, said.

Another Russian senator, Igor Morozov, alleged the move "carries a threat to the entire system of international security, but first of all for Russia, because after leaving the INF the Americans will deploy these missiles in European countries." However, the end of the treaty could also serve Russia's strategic interests, removing any obstacle to Moscow deploying intermediate-range missiles that could reach Europe and China.

U.S. officials had expressed worry that China was gaining a significant military advantage in Asia by deploying large numbers of missiles with ranges beyond the treaty's limit. Leaving the treaty with Russia would allow the United States to counter the Chinese, but it's unclear how the Pentagon might try to do that. □

# As Ebola outbreak marks 6 months, health centers a concern

By CARLEY PETESCH

Associated Press

**DAKAR, Senegal (AP)** —

The deadly Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo marked six months on Friday with officials noting a worrying number of confirmed cases linked to health centers.

Such infections are seen as a major problem that highlights poor practices and the risk of spread among patients and workers. Combined with community resistance in an unstable, densely populated region that has never faced Ebola before, the task of containing the outbreak remains challenging.

In the current epicenter, the communities of Butembo and Katwa, 86 percent of Ebola cases since Dec. 1 "had visited or worked in a health care facility before or after their onset of illness," the World Health Organization said.

In the past three weeks in Katwa, 49 "health structures" were identified where confirmed cases were hos-



Two Congolese government soldiers have their feet and motorcycle tires sprayed with bleach as part of an Ebola containment programme on the road between Beni and Oicha, in Congo Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

pitalized, and eight new infected health workers were reported, WHO said.

With 759 Ebola cases, including 705 of them confirmed and 414 confirmed deaths, this has become the second-largest Ebola

outbreak in history, behind the West Africa outbreak that killed more than 11,000 in 2014-2016.

No end is in sight.

"This is a particularly complex area with such insecurity," Dr. Ibrahima Soce Fall,

the WHO regional director for emergencies, told The Associated Press. "We have been able to control many hotspots, but it will take some time to really end the outbreak."

Katwa is the latest commu-

nity to present officials with a population that is wary of outsiders after years of rebel attacks in the region. "They don't trust authorities in Congo because they've been exposed to insecurity and conflict for more than 20 years," Fall said. "You cannot control this type of outbreak without having the community involved for rapid detection." In Beni, an early epicenter, it took months before some communities showed trust, he said.

People often still choose to go to traditional health centers instead of hospitals. "Many people have gotten infected in those facilities. If you have malaria, you may be in the same place as someone with Ebola," Fall said. "They don't have doctors there, and the people working aren't qualified." Many of Ebola's initial symptoms, including fever and muscle pain, are similar to those of malaria and other illnesses common in the region. □





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# Hong Kong court denies male status to 3 transgender men

By VIOLET LAW

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Hong Kong's High Court refused on Friday to allow three transgender men to be recognized as males on their official identity cards because they have not undergone full sex-change operations.

The ruling was seen as a blow to the fledgling LGBT movement in the semiautonomous Chinese city of 7.4 million people, which is preparing to host the 2022 Gay Games.

The three, identified as Henry Tse, Q and R, are shown on their ID cards as having been born female, but are undergoing hormone therapy. A full sex change would require the removal of female sexual organs, making them sterile.

Appearing in court, Tse unfurled a banner that read, "Forced Sterilization is cruel and inhumane. Recognize



Transgender man, Henry Tse displays a banner outside a local court in Hong Kong Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

our Rights NOW!"

In his ruling, Judge Thomas Au wrote that "the change of gender entry stated in the ID card does not only concern the private right of the transgender person but also the wider public interest."

Like many Asian societies, Hong Kong has become more open about gender issues, although the legal system is sometimes slow to follow.

Amnesty International called the judgment "a missed opportunity to ad-

dress the discrimination transgender people in Hong Kong face."

"No one should be forced to undergo gender affirming surgery in order to have their gender legally recognized," Man-kei Tam, director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, said in a statement.

Friday's decision follows a ruling last week by Japan's Supreme Court upholding a law that effectively requires transgender people to be sterilized before they can have their gender changed on official documents. That ruling was widely denounced by human rights and LGBT activists and may spark further legal action.

Japan is one of many countries with a sterilization requirement. In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights said 22 of the countries under its jurisdiction still

required sterilization as part of a legal gender change, and it ordered them to end the practice.

Maria Sjodin, deputy executive director of Out-Right Action International, which monitors LGBT rights issues worldwide, said she was unsure if all 22 of those countries have fully implemented the court's order.

In Hong Kong, the judgment seemed at odds with a 2013 ruling that allowed a transgender woman known as W to have her gender changed to female on her identity card. W had successfully sued in the city's highest legal body, the Court of Final Appeal, for her right to marry her boyfriend. Following that case, the city's Equal Opportunities Commission recommended that the government drop the requirement for complete sex reassignment. □

# Former South Korean governor convicted of sexual abuse

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — A South Korean appeals court sentenced a former provincial governor to 3½ years in prison on Friday on charges of sexually abusing his secretary, in the highest profile conviction yet from investigations triggered by the country's growing #MeToo movement.

A Seoul High Court official said Ahn Hee-jung was found guilty on most counts after being accused of molestation, sexual assault and abuse of authority. The official did not want to be named, citing office rules. Ahn, 54, had been considered a possible presidential candidate, and was a runner-up to current President Moon Jae-in in the ruling party's presidential primary in April 2017.

But he stepped down as governor of South Chungcheong province last March amid public anger over allegations of sexual abuse raised by his then-secretary, Kim Ji-eun. Kim said in a television interview that Ahn had raped her several times since June 2017 and that she couldn't say no because of how powerful he was.

A lower court acquitted Ahn in August, citing a lack of evidence proving that he abused his authority to force his secretary to have sex.

Ahn, who said the sex was consensual, can appeal the conviction to the Supreme Court.

After Friday's verdict was announced, Ahn told the judge that "I have nothing to say," according to Yon-



Ahn Hee-jung, center, a former governor of South Chungcheong province, arrives at the Seoul High Court in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

hap news agency, and was later escorted in handcuffs by court officials to a bus that took him to a correction center in southern Seoul.

In a statement released

through her lawyer, Kim thanked the court for seeing "the truth, just the way it is," and said she hopes the verdict will give strength to other victims of sexual abuse who have struggled

in their attempts to seek accountability.

Ahn is the first prominent politician to be jailed after being accused in the country's growing #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct, which has led to indictments and convictions of powerful men in arts, sports and government after victims came forward.

Last week, the Seoul Central District Court sentenced former senior prosecutor Ahn Tae-geun to two years in prison for abusing his authority by transferring junior colleague Seo Ji-hyeon to an unfavorable provincial job in 2015 after she demanded that he apologize for allegedly groping her at a funeral. Seo went public with her allegations in January last year. □



# Mexican president unleashes labor unrest at border plants



In this March 21, 2017 file photo, workers gather outside a "maquiladora" for car accessories in Matamoros, Mexico.

Associated Press

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — A mass strike at 48 "maquiladora," or manufacturer, plants in Mexico's border city of Matamoros is heading for victory, bringing pay raises for laborers who make less than \$1 an hour, or about 100 pesos a day, assembling auto components and TV sets for export to the United States — and causing jitters for the business community.

The labor battle broke out in mid-January after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador decreed a doubling of the minimum wage in Mexico's border zones, apparently unaware that some union contracts at the maquiladora plants are indexed to minimum wage increases. The decree sparked a wave of walk-outs involving about 25,000 workers.

The maquiladoras claim the strikes threaten the very existence of their industry, which has attracted over 5,000 mostly foreign-owned plants and 2 million jobs by paying very low wages. Union leaders say those worries are overblown, noting that workers at the border plants still earn far less than their counterparts in the United States.

Less than a week after the strike broke out, a majority of the export plants in Matamoros — 29 companies with a total of about 34 factories — have agreed to the union demands, a rare victory that owes a lot to something the president probably didn't intend to happen.

After taking office Dec. 1, Lopez Obrador doubled the minimum wage in communities along the U.S. border to 176.20 pesos a day, the equivalent of \$9.28 at current exchange rates. With maquiladora pay averaging about 146 pesos (\$7.70) a day, the Matamoros workers went on strike to demand the 20 percent raise be applied to everybody — even those making above the minimum — and a one-time bonus of about \$1,685.

"Perhaps he didn't take into account what was in the labor contracts," said Javier Zuniga, an activist with the Miners' Union who has helped coordinate the strike. "The president acted in good faith, but he didn't measure the impact that was going to have on union contracts, and the workers came out winners for once."

Since the 1990s, many companies in Matamoros,

which is across the border from Brownsville, Texas, signed contracts indexed to minimum wage hikes. It was a way to keep wages down, given that in most previous years, annual increases were about equal to the inflation rate.

One such contract signed in March 2018 at the Kongsberg Interior Systems plant, which makes automotive cables, stipulates that "the company will reach an agreement with the union to increase wages by the same percent that minimum wages are increased."

In addition, many companies' annual bonuses are calculated by multiplying minimum wage increases by 365, a figure that in past years usually amounted to only about \$100.

"They (the government) never thought there was a real union, or that there were (contract) clauses like that," said Cirila Quintero, a sociology professor at Colegio de la Frontera Norte who has studied the Matamoros union that has represented maquiladora workers for more than a quarter century.

The Industrial Workers and Laborers' Union of Matamoros, which was founded initially in 1932 to represent

cotton workers, is unusual in Mexico because it has won gains for its members that don't exist in contracts anywhere else in the country. Far more common are pro-company "ghost" unions that sign contracts without consulting the workers they purportedly represent.

Lopez Obrador has been wary of antagonizing the business sector, and he appears to be an unwilling hero in opening the floodgates of labor discontent. Both Quintero and Luis Aguirre, the head of Mexico's association of maquiladora companies, said federal officials actively discouraged the Matamoros union from seeking the pay increases. The Labor Department refused to confirm that, saying only that it sent mediators to Matamoros to try to defuse the dispute.

Aguirre also claims federal officials agree that the union's interpretation of the contract clauses is erroneous, but he says the federal government has been unwilling to act.

"This will give rise to unemployment and cause at least 15 of these companies to flee," Aguirre warned. His group, the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturers Industry, said in a statement that the wage

demands may spread to other areas along the border "where the industry is present and will project a very bad image for foreign direct investment."

Still, most of the Matamoros companies have quietly agreed to the workers' demands, and they would be hard-pressed to find any place near the U.S. market where they could pay less than \$1 an hour.

Other Mexican border cities with assembly plants, like Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, "don't have this point" in their contracts, Quintero noted. "But what is going to happen is that workers are going to demand their raises to 176 pesos," the new minimum, and probably across the board, he said.

Lopez Obrador has come under pressure from the business sector to rein in wage demands, but he is unlikely to do so.

The only thing he has promised Mexico's labor movement is to guarantee union freedom and stay out of unions' internal affairs. For workers, that is a big step forward in a country where the labor movement has been smothered for decades by old-guard union bosses and pro-company "protection" contracts often signed before factories even open.

Lopez Obrador also has shown a certain fondness for militant union bosses like Mine Workers' head Napoleon Gomez Urrutia and the head of the Electrical Workers Union, Martin Esparza, even though both have been accused of questionable financial deals and of holding more protests than negotiations.

But Zuniga brushes off suggestions that Lopez Obrador favors the miners' union, and he dismisses accusations that he and other strike organizers are helping U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign to bring manufacturing plants back to the United States.

"Unfortunately, people here in Matamoros live on very low salaries," Zuniga said. "There is no plot, no conspiracy, other than to protect and help the workers." □



## LOCAL



## FPNA takes important step in the professionalization process



**ORANJESTAD** – On Thursday, Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) took an important first step in the professionalization process of the organization. A change to the articles of association – executed by the notary Rodriguez-Taeckema – entailed that per 1 February the Foundation will be operating under a professional Managing Board and a Supervisory Board.

FPNA is an independent foundation which manages a large part of Aruba. This task will become even larger and more complex with the future addition of a marine park and 16 other designated protected areas. Hence the necessity to change the governing structure as well as the organization. The statutory changes were executed in the presence of the minister charged with environmental affairs, Mr. O. Oduber. Also present was Ms. Natasha Silva, who was installed as a board member in the position of Chief Conservation Officer. Subsequent steps will be the recruitment and appointment of a CEO, developing a new organization structure and signing a management agreement with the government of Aruba.

### A short history

Mid-2018, the FPNA acquired a new board, after the former board members had decided to resign. In accordance with the articles of association, the Court of First Instance of Aruba subsequently appointed an interim board on 22 June. At the request of the judge on 31 July, the interim board issued an advisory report on the state of affairs of the foundation and made recommendations for its progress. The judge was able to agree with the advice given by the in-

terim board - given the in-depth administrative problems that the foundation had to deal with and also in view of the ambitious policy intentions – and emphasized the importance of appointing an administratively strong foundation board. For this reason, by order of 17 August 2018, the judge instated the members of the interim board as official FPNA board members for an indefinite period. As of that date the board consists of Mr. F.J. Refunjol, chairman, Mr. J.M. Laclé, vice-chairman, Mr. N.L. Kuipéri, treasurer and Mrs. H.A. van der Wal, secretary. On 4 October the board appointed Mrs. Sanju Luidens-Daryanani as the fifth board member.

### Advice to the judge

The new board has energetically started implementing the advice of 31 July 2018 since taking office in August last year, including: 1. The realization of an effective and professional management and management structure for the foundation, including the introduction of a professional Managing Board and Supervisory Board (two-tier management structure); 2. Designing and implementing the rules of Good Governance, including drawing up profiles and regulations for (the members of) the Managing Board, the Supervisory Board and the Audit Committee; 3. Processing of backlogs regarding the legal status of staff, holding a referendum and preparing for a collective bargaining agreement (this was pending for 16 years), designing a new organizational structure, job descriptions and salary house; 4. Adapting the organization and the articles of association to the new tasks and areas that will come under the management of the FPNA (such as the marine

park and 16+ other designated natural areas); 5. Creating a service level agreement with the government of Aruba; 6. Restoring the relationship and cooperation with various partners and stakeholders nationally and internationally, including the government of Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

(DCNA) and the European Union; 7. Drafting and updating management plans for the various (new) areas and ensuring adequate monitoring and enforcement. The Board's advice has been made publically available on the website of FPNA.

### Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

It is important to mention that the costs of the reorganization will be covered by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). FPNA is a member of this organization, which was set up to stimulate and facilitate the cooperation in nature conservation between the Caribbean nations of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

### Staff commitment and dedication

Over the past period, much effort was put into bringing things up to date within the foundation and restoring peace and stability. In the process, the board was able to count on the enormous dedication and professionalism of the members of the FPNA management team, who have helped the board in the implementation of their ambitious plans. The board was also able to count on the efforts of the entire staff, which in the meantime ensured that visitors to the parks can continue to enjoy the beauty of nature. □



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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at the Caribbean Palm Village

NOORD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was Joseph Internicola from Florida, USA.

This lovely gentleman stated that he loves the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, blue waters and sandy beaches, fishing and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Caribbean Palm Village presented the certificate to the honoree, and also handed over some presents and thanked him for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □





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## Klm Aruba Marathon & Aruba Tourism Authority announce partnership for 2019 2020 & 2021 races

ORANJESTAD—Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croe, CEO of A.T.A. welcomes the KLM Marathon to Aruba. "We are pleased to announce that the second annual KLM Aruba Marathon will be held on June 2nd, 2019 and thrilled to officially partner with Foundation Run in the Sun to continue holding this special sporting activity through 2021. As the trend in active travel continues, being on the World Marathon Calendar is a true honor and we hope it incites more marathon runners to come join us in June. Arubans cannot wait to welcome these talented athletes to our oasis and showcase what our happy island has to offer as a key international marathon location".

Kees van Muiswinkel, Chairman & Founder of Foundation Run in the Sun/ KLM Aruba Marathon "We're thrilled with the three year Aruba Tourism Authority partnership to further expand the success of the KLM Aruba Marathon. I'd like to thank the A.T.A for their enthusiasm, professionalism, hospitality and support."

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- Everyone who registers on time receives a race number with their own name
- Scenic course routes for all distances
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- Free certificate for each participant with name and distance
- Joint finish of all distances on Hilton Aruba's beachfront followed by the Awards ceremony with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers and an "After Party on the Beach"
- A, B, C Island resident participants are entered to win 2 KLM return tickets to Amsterdam. The "tombola" is directly after the awards ceremony
- Dri Fit Running shirt, singlet running shirt, Pasta Party, finish photo & video are optional.
- Registration 2019 is open: register online, pay online (or pay at IBiSA) via [www.klmarubamarathon.com](http://www.klmarubamarathon.com). ☐



# SPORTS



*Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade reacts after sinking a three-point basket during the first half of the NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in New York.*

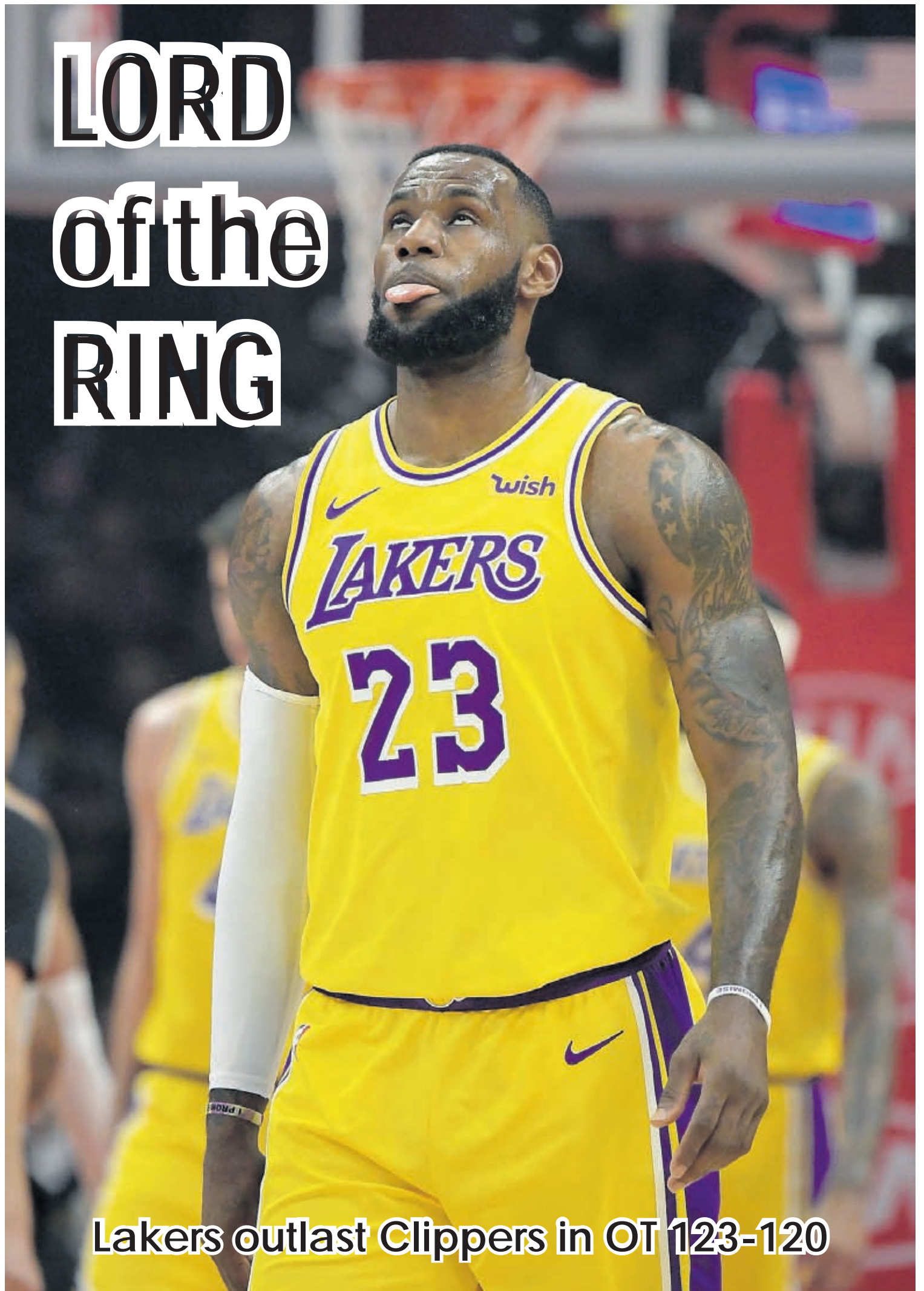
Associated Press

## NBA adds Wade, Nowitzki to All-Star player pool

**MIAMI (AP)** — Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Miami's Dwyane Wade are both NBA champions, NBA Finals MVPs and longtime ambassadors for the game of basketball. And now, one more time, they're All-Stars. By special order of NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, Wade and Nowitzki were added Friday to the pool of players for the All-Star Game that will be played in Charlotte on Feb. 17. Each team will now have 13 players instead of the customary 12, and LeBron James — one of the captains — will be the one who decides which side Wade and Nowitzki will be joining. "Dirk Nowitzki and Dwyane Wade embody the best of the NBA: remarkable skill, drive and professionalism as well as a deep devotion to strengthening their communities and growing the game around the world," Silver said.

Continued on Page 19

# LORD of the RING



## Lakers outlast Clippers in OT 123-120

*Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James stands on the court during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Los Angeles.*

Associated Press  
Page 19



# Her knees 'broken beyond repair,' Vonn retiring after worlds

By **PAT GRAHAM** and **ANDREW DAMPF**  
AP Sports Writers

Lindsey Vonn transcended her sport in a way only a handful of Olympic athletes could even imagine. She was about more than skiing. She was about more than medals. She was about more than winning. She was often in the spotlight, appearing in the pages of mainstream and sports magazines, walking the red carpets, mingling with A-list celebrities and dating high-profile sports figures.

The record-setting racer who grew up in Minnesota, then relocated to Colorado, became a household name in mountain towns and big cities — to people who knew a lot about racing and those who only tuned in every four years. But now, conceding her body is "broken beyond repair," Vonn is nearing the finish line for the final time. The woman who won more World Cup races than any other female is calling it quits at 34. On Friday, she said she'll retire after the world championships this month.

"She's accomplished so many things and has overcome so much adversity in her life, with her injuries, and comebacks, and setbacks and comebacks," U.S. Ski and Snowboard CEO Tiger Shaw said in a telephone interview with The Associat-



In hits Dec. 9, 2017, file photo, United States' Lindsey Vonn grimaces in pain after getting to the finish area of an women's World Cup super-G ski race in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Associated Press

ed Press. "Very few people can focus and train as hard as she does. We're all in awe of what she's accomplished in her career."

Vonn's original plan was to step away in December, after one final charge down the course in Lake Louise, Alberta — a course she won on so often it's now named in her honor.

She was forced to move up her retirement due to persistent pain in both knees, which she fully realized after failing to finish a race in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, last month.

Now, she's down to two races: The women's super-G on Tuesday in the Swed-

ish resort of Are, and the downhill scheduled for Feb. 10.

That's it. That's all her knees have left.

"My body is broken beyond repair and it isn't letting me have the final season I dreamed of," Vonn wrote on Instagram.

"My body is screaming at me to STOP and it's time for me to listen."

"It's been an emotional 2 weeks making the hardest decision of my life," she wrote, "but I have accepted that I cannot continue ski racing."

Vonn's impressive resume: three Olympic medals, including downhill gold

at the 2010 Vancouver Games. Four overall World Cup titles. And 82 World Cup wins, leaving her four behind the all-time mark held by Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

Her off-the-slopes portfolio includes: Appearing in the pages of everything from Vogue to the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, earning sponsorship deals with companies such as Red Bull, meeting actors like Dwayne Johnson and even being an extra on one of her favorite shows, "Law & Order." The spotlight only increased when she dated golfer Tiger Woods. She's now seeing Nashville

Predators defenseman P.K. Subban.

She's big on social media, with 1.6 million Instagram followers.

A recent post from Vonn was cryptic in nature and yet all-too-insightful as she quoted the French philosopher Voltaire: "Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her: but once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game."

Translation: She simply had no more cards to play. Her aching knees and beat-up body finally applied the brakes to her hard-charging ways.

Vonn's right knee is permanently damaged from previous crashes. She has torn ACLs, suffered fractures near her left knee, broke her ankle, sliced her right thumb and had several concussions — to name a few. She's limited to about three runs per day, and her body just can't handle the workload of other skiers.

"Honestly, retiring isn't what upsets me. Retiring without reaching my goal is what will stay with me forever," Vonn said. "However, I can look back at 82 World Cup wins, 20 World Cup titles, 3 Olympic medals, 7 World Championship medals and say that I have accomplished something that no other woman in HISTORY has ever done, and that is something that I will be proud of FOREVER!"

Her first World Cup start was Nov. 18, 2000, in a slalom race in Park City, Utah, and she didn't qualify for the second run. She was Lindsey Kildow then, before changing her name to Vonn after marrying her now ex-husband and ex-coach, Thomas.

Her first World Cup win came four years later, in a downhill event at Lake Louise.

Retiring in Sweden brings Vonn full circle. She won her first two major championship medals — two silvers — at the 2007 worlds in Are. As for how she will be remembered, that's simple for U.S. coach Paul Kristofic: Her comebacks. □



Donna Vekic of Croatia returns the ball to Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic during the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy-2019 tennis tournament quarter final match in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

## Kvitova loses to Vekic in St Petersburg quarters

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)** — Australian Open finalist Petra Kvitova struggled with her serve and was eliminated from the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy after losing to eighth-seeded Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

The second-ranked Kvitova landed only 48 percent of her first serves, double-faulted six times, and was broken five times.

Kvitova, the defending St. Petersburg champion who lost to Naomi Osaka in the Australian Open final, was playing in her 14th match in 24 days. It was Vekic's fifth match in that time.

Vekic will next face veteran Vera Zvonareva in the semifinals after she beat fellow Russian Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 7-6 (3).

The 12th-ranked Kasatkina has yet to win a match this year after four losses and

a single walkover over the injured Maria Sharapova. Fourth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka reached the semifinals by beating Russian qualifier Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-3, 6-4. She will next play Kiki Bertens, who beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 3-6, 6-0. That was a rematch after Pavlyuchenkova knocked Bertens out of the Australian Open second round. □



# With LeBron back, Lakers outlast Clippers in OT 123-120

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — LeBron James had 24 points and 14 rebounds in his return from a 17-game injury absence, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Clippers 123-120 in overtime Thursday night after blowing a 14-point, fourth-quarter lead.

James came up one assist shy of a triple-double. He made 5 of 7 free throws and had no fouls in 40 minutes of his first game since Christmas at Golden State when he strained his left groin. The Lakers were 6-11 during the longest absence of his 16-year career.

Tied 118-all, James scored the go-ahead basket in overtime. Lance Stephenson drove for a flailing layup, hitting Boban Marjanovic in the nose with his left elbow while getting fouled. He completed the three-point play that kept the Lakers ahead 123-118. Avery Bradley and Lou Williams missed on the same possession, and Williams missed a free throw when Stephenson got called for a technical in a tussle with

Bradley.

**76ERS 113, WARRIORS 104** OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Joel Embiid had 26 points and 20 rebounds to spoil DeMarcus Cousins' home debut with the Warriors, and Philadelphia snapped Golden State's NBA-best 11-game winning streak.

Philadelphia hadn't won a game in the series in nearly six years. Ben Simmons also scored 26 points and JJ Redick added 15 points for the Sixers, who grabbed 16 offensive rebounds to give them 10 or more in five straight games and 11 of 15. Stephen Curry scored 41 points with 10 3-pointers to go with six assists, and Cousins contributed seven points, six rebounds and six assists. Kevin Durant hit a 3-pointer with 4:52 remaining to trim the deficit to 102-96, but Draymond Green fouled moments later and received a technical for arguing.

**BUCKS 105, RAPTORS 92**

TORONTO (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 19 points, Khris Middleton had

18 and Milwaukee beat ended Toronto's season-best home winning streak at 10 games.

D.J. Wilson scored a career-high 16 points, Eric Bledsoe had 14 and Milwaukee (37-13) wrapped up the season series with its third victory in four meetings with Toronto. The NBA-leading Bucks have a 1 1/2-game lead over the Raptors (37-16) in the Eastern Conference.

The victory ensures Milwaukee will have the best winning percentage in the East through Feb. 3, meaning Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer will represent the conference at next month's NBA All-Star Game. Pascal Siakam scored 28 points and Kawhi Leonard had 16 for the Raptors. They had not lost at home since Dec. 9 to the Bucks.

**PISTONS 93, MAVERICKS 89** DETROIT (AP) — Andre Drummond had 24 points and 20 rebounds and Detroit rallied from a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat short-handed Dallas. □

Continued from Page 17

"As a global celebration of basketball, our All-Star Game is an ideal setting to salute these first-class NBA champions and Finals MVPs."

Wade, who is retiring after 16 seasons, will be an All-Star for the 13th time. Nowitzki is heading to the All-Star Game for the 14th time, and has yet to officially say if his 21st season with the Mavericks will be the final one of his career. Nowitzki was already going to have a big role in All-Star weekend, after agreeing to be an honorary coach in the Rising Stars game on Friday night and the skills competition as part of All-Star Saturday Night. Wade was headed to the All-Star Game for various events and was exploring some broadcast opportunities, though now he'll be in shorts and sneakers instead of a suit for the Sunday night highlight of the weekend.



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) signals to his bench with New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (26) awaiting the an official's call during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Wade is a three-time NBA champion. Nowitzki led Dallas to the 2011 NBA title. James and fellow captain Giannis Antetokounmpo will choose their teams on Feb. 7. James will have the first pick in the first round, when the starters will be

chosen. Antetokounmpo gets the No. 1 pick in the second round, when he and James will split up the 14 reserves. And James has the top pick in the third round, which will be the one that includes Wade and Nowitzki. □



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, tries to drive past Los Angeles Clippers guard Patrick Beverley during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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# Sanheim scores in OT, Flyers beat Bruins for 6th straight

By DOUG ALDEN

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Philadelphia Flyers's holiday slump is well behind them. Now they're trying to salvage what had been a dismal season.

Travis Sanheim scored a power-play goal 2:56 into overtime and the Flyers beat the Boston Bruins 3-2 on Thursday night to extend their season-best winning streak to six.

The Flyers went 2 for 2 on the power play — improving to 14.1 percent for the season — and won in overtime for just the second time this season.

"We played one of our best games," said captain Claude Giroux, whose breakaway goal with 44 seconds left in the first period tied it at 1-1 and jump-started the Flyers for the remainder of the game. "I think it's confidence. When you get a couple wins you start feeling better about yourselves"

There was little confidence for Philadelphia at the beginning of the month during a losing streak that hit eight straight before the recent turnaround.

"I can't say enough about the way the guys played tonight," coach Scott Gordon said. "That has to be



Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Travis Sanheim (6) celebrates his winning goal with teammates Travis Konecny (11) and Wayne Simmonds (17) in the overtime period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

the best game we played. A little bit of a slow start, but you know, nothing that we couldn't recover from."

Sanheim had a goal and an assist, helping setting up Oskar Lindblom's tying goal with 9:24 left in the third period, then beat Tuukka Rask with a long wrist shot in the final seconds of a power play after Brad Marchand

was sent off for tripping. Jakub Voracek had two assists and Carter Hart made 23 saves for the resurgent Flyers, who have won seven of eight to improve to 22-23-6 and took the season series against the Bruins 2-1.

David Pastrnak scored both goals for the Bruins. Rask, out with a concussion since

Jan. 19, stopped 38 shots in his return. The Bruins lost their third straight, making costly mistakes at crucial times once again.

"We have to fix it. The guys have to decide if they're going to play the right way and buy in and understand what we are right now," coach Bruce Cassidy said. "If we're scoring five goals a

night, you get a little different animal. You can overlook some of those things. We're not in that position right now."

Travis Konecny, who drew the penalty on Marchand in OT, assisted with Sean Couturier on Sanheim's winner from the left circle.

Pastrnak scored a power-play goal 3:05 into the game to put the Bruins up 1-0, beating Hart with a one-timer from the left circle off Torey Krug's pass with 42 seconds remaining on Giroux's tripping penalty.

Pastrnak reached 30 goals for the third straight season when he tipped in a shot by Bergeron 5:11 into the second, putting Boston up 2-1.

Giroux beat Rask on a breakaway with 44 seconds left in the first to tie it at 1. It was just the eighth shot of the period for the Flyers, who got their offense going in the second period and outshot the Bruins 17-7, then continued to pressure Boston in the third.

Rask stopped Scott Laughton on a penalty shot 6:22 into the third, but the Flyers tied it with 9:24 left on Lindblom's power-play goal from the slot off a pass from Voracek. □

# NHL to celebrate Black History Month for 1st time

By STEPHEN WHYNO

The NHL will celebrate Black History Month for the first time, shifting its focus in February from its wide-ranging "Hockey Is For Everyone" campaign to emphasize racial diversity in the sport.

The league and NHL Players' Association will announce the joint initiative Friday morning. It includes a traveling mobile museum devoted to the history of minorities in hockey predating Willie O'Ree breaking the color barrier in 1958 and going up to the present day. The museum will debut outside Madison Square Garden in New York on Saturday.

As part of this, "Hockey Is For Everyone" is expand-

ing to year-round. March will be gender-equality month, and the plan is to add acknowledgement of Hispanic heritage and "First Nations" next season.

There are roughly 20 black players currently on NHL rosters, though executive vice president of social impact, growth initiatives and legislative affairs Kim Davis said there is strong minority representation at youth levels.

"I think a focus like this during Black History Month will affirm those many kids of color that are already playing our game," Davis said. "I think we often underestimate the pipeline of talent that is already involved in our game."

USA Hockey only recently



Winnipeg Jets' Adam Lowry (17) chases Columbus Blue Jackets' Seth Jones (3) around the net during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Associated Press

began collecting data on player participation by race, so it will take some time to show if the sport that is predominantly white

at its highest levels is making inroads. Davis added that another aim is to educate all fans of the contributions of non-white play-

ers during hockey's history. O'Ree, who has worked since 1996 as NHL diversity ambassador and director of youth development, says he's proud the league is celebrating black history and has seen progress in more kids playing hockey over his two decades on the job. Blue Jackets defenseman Seth Jones, one of several black stars who will be the subject of video specials this month, said "important conversations and perspectives will be shared as part of the Black History Month celebration." Predators defenseman P.K. Subban, Sharks forward Evander Kane and Hall of Famers Grant Fuhr and Angela James will also be among those featured. □





FBI Special Agent John Cronier holds one of a half-dozen drones which have been confiscated for being flown in the no-fly zone over Mercedes-Benz Stadium Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, in Atlanta, just days before Super Bowl 53.

Associated Press

## A deluge of drones fly over Super Bowl stadium, despite ban

By JEFF MARTIN  
Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — The sky above the stadium that will host Sunday's Super Bowl is being "inundated" with an alarming number of drones, raising the specter of injuries to tourists or others — or a possible collision with aircraft, the FBI said Friday.

That's despite an ongoing restriction that bans the use of drones in the area of Mercedes-Benz Stadium downtown.

Officers on Thursday confiscated a half-dozen drones that were flown near the stadium, FBI spokesman Kevin Rowson said Friday at the agency's Atlanta field office. The cases will be referred to federal prosecutors for possible charges; the drone pilots could face jail time and fines, Rowson said.

"If these drones go out of control — if a pilot loses control of one — they can go into a crowd and cause serious injuries," Rowson said.

The potential for terrorism is also a concern.

"When we look up into the air and see a drone flying in the air, we have no idea if it's friendly, or if it's someone who has nefarious plans and it's weaponized," he

added.

In recent days, multiple helicopters have been patrolling the air space above the stadium and surrounding area, often swooping below the tops of Atlanta's downtown buildings as part of a massive security operation.

"A drone impact with a fixed-wing aircraft or a helicopter would be catastrophic," FBI Special Agent John Cronier said.

Moreover, policing illegal drones is pulling officers away from other duties, Rowson said.

"It has taken up a lot of time for our agents and for law enforcement officers to be targeting these drones when they could be working on other security measures," he said.

In December, hundreds of flights were canceled and more than 100,000 people were stranded or delayed after drones were spotted near the runway at Gatwick Airport outside London.

Last month, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines pilots encountered a drone around 3,500 feet (1,000 meters) above Teterboro, New Jersey. That resulted in dozens of delays at nearby Newark Liberty International Airport. □



In this Nov. 18, 2012 file photo, Baltimore Ravens free safety Ed Reed (20) runs after recovering a fumble by Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Mike Wallace during the first quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh.

## Strong field of DBs and OLs for Hall of Fame election

**ATLANTA (AP)** — In the past decade, four defensive backs from the modern era have made the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

On Saturday, five of them are up for consideration.

Cornerback Champ Bailey and safety Ed Reed are in their first year of eligibility. Cornerback Ty Law and safeties John Lynch and Steve Atwater each have been this route before and fallen short.

There are 26 defensive backs in the Canton shrine, not a particularly high number; 26 quarterbacks are in the hall, and only one of them is on the field at a time — OK, the Saints sometimes go with two. Most defenses have at least four DBs out there at a time, and more often these days there are five or six.

So the relative shortage of coverage guys and bone-shattering tacklers from the secondary could get addressed this year.

"Man, just a playmaker," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta says of Reed, who was a five-time All-Pro, won a Super Bowl for the 2012 season, made the All-Decade team of the 2000s, and was the 2004 Defensive Player of the Year.

"Ed just always had a great knack for making a critical

play in a critical situation. He was a finisher. He was a guy that when the lights were on, he was going to make the play."

DeCosta recalls a game against Washington:

"I'll never forget that night game when he blocked the punt, recovered the fumble and basically, singlehandedly, won that game for us. He just had a flare for making the best play of the game."

Reed's fellow newcomer to the process, Bailey, starred for the Redskins for five seasons, then for another 10 with Denver. A three-time All-Pro who also made the 2000s All-Decade squad, he had 52 interceptions and was a lockdown cornerback for most of his career. Bailey also played some offense and returned punts.

"I just loved to play. That's why I did so much," he says. "I love to do it, it wasn't because I was good at it. A lot of guys are good at it, but they hate putting in the work. That's what I love to do."

"When I went to college, it was the same thing. When I got to NFL, I wanted to do everything. I did as much as I could, as long as I could, and as long as they allowed me. Then once I

got a little older, I got a little smarter and realized that I shouldn't be doing all of this stuff. But it's football and I miss the game."

Lynch was the bulwark of the Tampa 2 defense for the Buccaneers and then the Broncos, winning a Super Bowl with Tampa Bay. Law also won rings, getting three with New England, and had 53 interceptions. Atwater, as fierce a hitter as the safety position has seen, won two Super Bowls with the Broncos.

There is a definite Denver flavor to this year's class, with team owner Pat Bowlen on the ballot as a contributor. The other contributors' category nominee is long-time Cowboys and league executive Gil Brandt, and the senior candidate is former Chiefs safety Johnny Robinson. They are considered separately from the modern-era guys.

Along with DB, the offensive line is loaded with contenders, featuring center Kevin Mawae, tackles Steve Hutchinson and Tony Boselli, and guard Alan Faneca. All have been finalists before. Mawae, Faneca and Hutchinson also made the All-Decade team of the 2000s, Boselli was voted to the 1990s squad. □



# High-profile moves \_ and near moves \_ mark a shift in MLS

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Sports Writer

Recent high-profile moves — and near moves — for Major League Soccer players are signaling a shift in how the league is perceived on the world stage. The old stereotype that MLS is a final destination for players on the downside of their careers is fading as more of the league's stars are getting attention from European clubs and beyond — and moving on. In the past few days, two of the league's big names have left for teams abroad: Atlanta United midfielder Miguel Almiron and Toronto forward Sebastian Giovinco.

Those deals follow Bayern Munich's signing last year of Vancouver winger Alphonso Davies for a then-record transfer fee that could reach \$22 million. Columbus goalkeeper Zack Steffen will be headed to Manchester City in July on a deal that could net the Crew \$10 million, and former New York Red Bulls defensive midfielder Tyler Adams made his first start with German club RB Leipzig last week after he was dealt in December.

Atlanta United President Darren Eales said the Almiron move to Newcastle United is emblematic of the team's philosophy of bringing in promising young players and showcasing them.

"I think we can say after this transfer window, if you're a young player, if you're a club in MLS trying to at-



In this file photo dated Sunday, June 24, 2018, Atlanta United midfielder Miguel Almiron in action against the Portland Timbers during an MLS soccer match, in Atlanta, USA.

tract a player coming up to the prime of his career, you're able to point to Miguel Almiron or Alphonso Davies, to be able to say, 'Look, you can come to this league and actually now get noticed and moved on to top clubs and top leagues in the world,'" Eales said.

Almiron, 24, played in 70 matches across all competitions for Atlanta over the past two seasons, scoring 22 goals with 30 assists. While he moved on, Atlanta recently signed another promising young player in 25-year-old midfielder Pity Martinez, the reigning South American Player of the Year.

"The increase in transfer fees for MLS players is an indication of the quality of our players," said Todd

Durbin, MLS executive vice president for player relations and competition. "Every top league has clubs that sell talented players, and MLS is no different. Importantly, our clubs use the revenue to acquire new players like Pity Martinez, which improves the quality of our teams."

Davies, who is just 18, became part of the Whitecaps' residency program in 2015 and made his MLS debut the next year. He is the youngest player ever to play for the senior Canadian national team.

Steffen, 23, was the 2018 MLS Goalkeeper of the Year and has been starting for the U.S. national team. Crew technical director Pat Onstad echoed Eales when the deal for Steffen was struck in December.

"We continue to believe that players that come to Crew SC have an opportunity to develop and become great players either here in MLS or abroad," he said.

Giovinco, the league's Most Valuable Player in 2015, doesn't quite fit the mold of an emerging player like Almiron, but he was key to Toronto's rise in recent years and one of the team's most popular players. After four seasons with the Reds, Giovinco moved to Saudi Arabian team Al-Hilal.

There are some pitfalls to being a so-called "seller's league." MLS must navigate player development and movement while keeping young players that are the future of the league. Atlanta seems to have struck a balance by re-signing last

season's MVP, Josef Martinez.

Commissioner Don Garber addressed the concerns in his annual state of the league address before the MLS Cup final between Atlanta and the Portland Timbers.

"Our view on this whole area is very, very different than it was two, three, four or five years ago. The product that we're developing has become some of the more important assets, and we need to start finding ways of protecting or finding some ways to get compensated if we can't protect them or can't sign them," Garber said.

Of course, there are still some older players who have been stars in Europe that come stateside, including the Galaxy's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and D.C. United's Wayne Rooney. That model of bringing in established talent from abroad still has value for some teams, but more and more those new arrivals are trending younger.

The average age of league newcomers — which doesn't include draft picks or development academy players — is 25.24, just slightly higher than the record low set last year of 24.84 years. Just five years ago, that average was 27.53 years.

"The great thing is that we're in a period of growth and flux in the league. For some players, yes, there will be opportunities to go on to other top clubs," Eales said. □

## Connecticut Open tennis tournament to leave New Haven

**NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)** — The Connecticut Open tennis tournament is leaving New Haven after a 21-year run in the city, organizers said Friday. The operators of the tournament have sold the sanction for the WTA event to APG, a sports and entertainment company that is planning to put on a tournament in September in Zhengzhou, China. The financial model of the

Connecticut Open was no longer viable, organizers said. The Tennis Foundation of Connecticut said it is exploring whether another professional tennis event can be drawn to the city. "It has been an amazing 21-year run for women's professional tennis in New Haven, and we are truly grateful to all the fans, volunteers, players, media and sponsors involved," tournament director Anne

Worcester said. The tournament traditionally has taken place in August, the final WTA tuneup before the U.S. Open.

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp said the tournament has helped to boost the city financially and bring it global attention since it began in 1998.

"We remain hopeful that professional tennis will return to New Haven in the very near future," Harp said.

The tournament's finances have been tenuous for several years and it nearly moved out of state before Connecticut bought the rights to the tournament in 2013 for \$618,000. In 2017, the state completed a \$2.5 million renovation of the facility where the tournament is held in hopes of getting more out of the venue than just the tennis event. "It stayed in New Haven due to efforts by many

people when there was almost certainty five years ago that it would leave for another state. Five additional years of economic impact, marketing of the state around the world, and year-round community outreach programs is something to be celebrated," said Mark Ojakian, who helped to save the tournament when he was former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's chief of staff. □



# Mariano Rivera awed by his first Hall of Fame visit

By JOHN KEKIS

AP Sports Writer

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Mariano Rivera stopped at the entrance to the Plaque Gallery inside the Baseball Hall of Fame and just gazed at the walls, awestruck by the moment. He was a long way from Puerto Caimito, Panama. "I can't comprehend it. It's just amazing. Too much," Rivera said Friday as he soaked in his first visit to the Hall of Fame. "It's quite a journey from a fishing village to a place where the best of the best is.

"For a man who loves the game of baseball, what all these men did and passed it on to us, there couldn't be a better day."

Rivera's appearance with his wife, Clara, on a sunny, frigid morning in upstate New York came less than two weeks after he became the first unanimous selection for the Hall of Fame. The former New York Yankees star relief pitcher received all 425 votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Edgar Martinez, Mike Musina and the late Roy Halladay also were selected by the writers, while Harold Baines and Lee Smith were picked in December by a veterans committee. All six will be inducted July 21 in Cooperstown.

The son of a fisherman, Rivera signed with the Yankees in 1990 and took his 87 mph fastball north to the Gulf Coast League in Florida. Five years later, at age 25, he made his major league debut for the Yankees. After serving as a set-up man and nearly being

traded, Rivera emerged in 1996 under first-year manager Joe Torre as one of the game's best relievers.

"There were a line of men that saw abilities in me in different areas," Rivera said. "I wanted to start, yes, but I wasn't attached to it. I just wanted to be happy to play the game of baseball. Smarter people than me put me in a position where I would shine."

One pitch rendered Rivera almost unhittable — his nasty, bat-shattering cut fastball, which he discovered in 1997. Part of a core with shortstop Derek Jeter, left-hander Andy Pettitte and catcher Jorge Posada, Rivera helped lead the Yankees to five World Series titles from 1996-09.

Rivera saved his best for the postseason, saving 42 games with a 0.70 ERA and 11 earned runs allowed over 16 seasons, including 11 saves in the World Series. Rivera retired after the 2013 season as MLB's saves leader with 652 and will join Rod Carew as the only natives of Panama elected to the Hall of Fame, and just the eighth relief pitcher.

"He put us on the map the way he played the game, the way he went about the game," Rivera said of Carew. "He represented us in a great way that we can never forget no matter what I did. If it wasn't for him, it would have been different. He was a special man."

There were disappointments, too, for the hard-throwing right-hander — five blown saves in the postseason, the most glaring in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series against the Ari-



Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Mariano Rivera reacts after signing the backer board where his plaque will hang while visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, in Cooperstown, N.Y. The former New York Yankees closer will be inducted on July 21.

Associated Press

zona Diamondbacks. Rivera gave up the Series-winning hit to Luis Gonzalez, a bloop single with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth.

That's just part of the legacy.

"If I have to do it again, I don't regret any moment of my career," Rivera said. "No regrets. I always give my best and sometimes the other team is better than you that day. That's baseball. My best wasn't enough for those games, but I wouldn't change it because how will you enjoy victory when you don't know what it is to be defeated? How do you know what it is to be on top when you've never been on the bottom?"

And his greatest moment? "Just putting the uniform (on), those pinstripes on

day in and day out, year in and year out, for 19 seasons, that was amazing," Rivera said. "It was a privilege to do that."

During his tour, Rivera stopped to gaze at several plaques — Carew, Jackie Robinson, Roberto Clemente, Hoyt Wilhelm (his first pitching coach in the Gulf Coast League), Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, Joe Torre, and Whitey Ford among them.

Rivera also was effusive in praise of Robinson, who broke baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 and wore No. 42 during his major league career. That Rivera was the last player to wear the number — it was grandfathered to him when No. 42 was retired in Robinson's honor in 1997 — made the moment more memorable.

"I was so happy and so glad when major league baseball retired that number," Rivera said. "Me being the last player using his number, representing the legacy of Jackie Robinson, was magnificent. I was blessed with that, being able to represent him with dignity." There was one moment Rivera had to fight his emotions — when he contemplated his journey.

"I remember leaving Panama seeing my father and my mother, my wife, back then my girlfriend, a cousin, not knowing what will happen, just accepting the challenge given the opportunity that I had and do my best," he said. "Now, 29 years later, we're talking about the Hall of Fame?"

"I don't even think if I could write that I could comprehend it. □"

## Backpack, gone: Nationals Park won't allow knapsacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Nationals have banned backpacks from their ballpark, a step farther than other major league clubs have gone in an era of enhanced security at stadiums.

The Nationals announced the change on Friday. It

will take effect starting this season.

All major league ballparks require fans to pass through metal detectors. Most teams have limits on bag size but don't restrict a particular type of bag. But under Washington's new policy, even backpacks

that are within the size requirements for other bags will not be permitted.

Exceptions will be made for backpack diaper bags or knapsacks used for medical reasons or for the aid of disabled people. People who bring those bags, though, will need

to obtain a waiver at the gate before entering Nationals Park, which is about 1½ miles south of the U.S. Capitol. "We are constantly assessing our procedures in an effort to make our ballpark safer," Scott Fear, the Nationals' president of public safety and security,

said in a statement. "We understand the implementation of these procedures will take some time for our fans to get used to, but our organization is dedicated to making Nationals Park the safest environment possible for everyone in attendance. □"



# 14-year-old's FaceTime bug discovery could rattle Apple

By MATT O'BRIEN

At the heart of Apple's shocking FaceTime bug, which allowed just about anyone to turn an iPhone into a live microphone, stands a 14-year-old boy who stumbled upon the eavesdropping flaw more than a week before Apple took action.

"The thing that surprised me the most was that this glitch happened in the first place," said Grant Thompson, a high school freshman in Tucson, Arizona. "I'm only 14 and I found it by accident, instead of the people at Apple that get paid to find glitches."

Not only that, but Grant and his mom said they spent a week unsuccessfully trying to get Apple to do something about the bug in its FaceTime group-chatting feature. The bug allowed callers to activate another person's microphone remotely even before the person has accepted or rejected the call. "It took nine days for us to get a response," he said. "My mom contacted them almost every single day through email, calling, faxing." Of the fax, he jokes, "I'm not even sure what that is. It's probably older than I am."

This eavesdropping scare is over now that Apple has disabled group chats, but the problem could dog the company for much longer. New York state officials have opened a consumer



Grant Thompson and his mother, Michele, look at an iPhone in the family's kitchen in Tucson, Ariz., on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

rights investigation. Others are raising questions about how long it took Apple to address the bug.

In a statement Friday, Apple thanked the Thompsens as it announced that it has identified a fix and will release it next week. FaceTime group chatting will resume then.

Grant, a straight-A student who plays basketball, does community volunteering and enjoys the video game "Fortnite," was calling friends to play the game on a Saturday night, Jan. 19, when he discovered the flaw.

"If a 14-year-old kid discovered it, I wonder how many other people discovered it," said Chris Wysopal, chief technology officer with the security firm Veracode.

Apple hasn't said whether it has records that could answer that question.

Friday's statement said Apple's engineers worked quickly once it got the details needed to reproduce the bug. Although Apple didn't acknowledge a delay, the company said it was "committed to improving the process by which we receive and escalate these reports, in order to

get them to the right people as fast as possible."

The company — at first widely praised for its swift response — could come under increased scrutiny as regulators seek to learn more about the vulnerability.

New York Attorney General Letitia James and Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Wednesday that they're investigating "Apple's failure to warn consumers about the FaceTime bug and slow response to addressing the issue."

They said the bug jeopardized the privacy of New

York consumers. James said her office's review will include a "thorough investigation into Apple's response."

Last October, Apple introduced the 32-person video conferencing feature for iPhones, iPads and Macs. With the bug, a FaceTime group-chat user calling another Apple device could hear audio — even if the receiver didn't accept the call. The bug was triggered when callers turned a regular FaceTime call into a group chat, making FaceTime think the receiver had accepted the chat.

In Grant's case, he had just gotten his Xbox ready and called to invite a friend, Nathan, to play "Fortnite" with him online.

"You can swipe up and add another person, so I added another friend of mine, Diego, to see if he also wanted to play," he said. "But as soon as I added Diego, it forced Nathan to respond." They were shocked at first, then tried to repeat the bug and it happened every time, he said. His mother, Michele Thompson, said she started trying to reach Apple the next day.

"They could have tested it within two minutes, realized it was true and brought it up the chain at Apple," said Thompson, who works as an attorney. "There needs to be a better process for the average citizen to report things like this. And a timelier response."

She eventually reached someone who advised that she could register as a software developer to submit the bug. Such reports can sometimes lead to "bug bounties" so that those who discover a flaw can get a financial reward. The family hoped Grant could receive such an award, or at least some credit, for his discovery. "Every day he would ask me, 'Did we hear from Apple yet?'" she said.

The family tried reaching Apple through multiple channels. They left comments on Twitter, one of them directed to CEO Tim Cook, and uploaded a video to walk Apple engineers through the problem. □

## Companies hope vests will ease burden for assembly workers

**FLAT ROCK, Mich. (AP)** — Ford Motor Co. and other manufacturers want to help their workers take a load off. Or at least make it easier to lift a load up. Ford is among several companies providing wearable technology to elevate and support their workers' arms. Nicholas Gotts wears an EksoVest during his shifts

building Mustangs at the Flat Rock Assembly Plant in suburban Detroit. He says the exoskeleton makes his job "a whole lot easier and a lot less strenuous."

Ford piloted the EksoVest at two U.S. plants before deciding last year to expand its use to 15 factories and seven countries. The vest provides lift assistance for 5 to 15 pounds (2.3 to



In this Sept. 18, 2018, photo Ford assembly line worker Nicholas Gotts, wearing a new wearable technology called an EksoVest, works on a vehicle in Flat Rock, Mich.

Associated Press

6.8 kilograms) per arm. Aerospace giant Boeing Co. is among other

companies that provide their workers with exoskeletons. □



# A robust job gain in January shows US economy's durability

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. employers shrugged off last month's partial shutdown of the government and engaged in a burst of hiring in January, adding 304,000 jobs, the most in nearly a year.

The healthy gain the government reported Friday illustrated the job market's resilience nearly a decade into the economic expansion. The U.S. has now added jobs for 100 straight months, the longest such period on record.

The unemployment rate did rise in January to 4 percent from 3.9 percent, the Labor Department said, but mostly for a technical reason: The number of people counted as temporarily unemployed jumped 175,000, with most of that increase consisting of federal workers and contractors affected by the shutdown.

The government on Friday also sharply revised down its estimates of job growth in November and December. Still, hiring has accelerated since last summer, a development that has surprised economists because hiring typically slows when unemployment is so low.

"The overwhelming conclusion from today's numbers is that the U.S. labor market remained incredibly strong at the start of 2019," said Leslie Preston, senior economist at TD Economics.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, said that many federal workers and contractors likely went out and found part-time work during the 35-day shutdown. The ability of many of them to do so is itself a sign of the job market's strength, Swonk said.

Last month's healthy job gain will assuage some concerns that had arisen about the U.S. economy. Global growth is weakening, the Trump administration is engaged in a trade war with China and higher mortgage rates have slowed home sales. Those factors have led many economists to forecast slower growth this year compared with 2018.

Yet strong hiring should boost household incomes,



In this Jan. 3, 2019, file photo an employment sign hangs from a wooden fence on the property of a McDonald's restaurant in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

Associated Press

fueling more consumer spending, which would help drive economic growth.

Most sectors of the economy reported solid hiring gains in January. Education and health care added 55,000 jobs, retailers nearly 21,000 and professional and business services, which includes such higher-paying positions as engineers and architects, 30,000.

The ongoing demand for workers is leading some businesses to offer higher pay to attract and keep staff. Average hourly wages rose 3.2 percent in January from a year earlier. That's just below the annual gain of 3.3 percent in December, which matched October and November for the fastest increase since April 2009.

Teresa Carroll, an executive at the staffing firm Kelly Services, said her company has explained to many clients that they have to pay more to find the workers they need. Some employers are still reluctant to offer higher pay, which has made it harder for them to

find and keep workers, she said.

"They've enjoyed two decades of minimal pay growth in general," she said. "It's our job to educate our clients about the labor market."

On a monthly basis, from December to January, wages barely rose, though. That's likely to keep the Federal Reserve unlikely to raise interest rates in the coming months, economists said. Chairman Jerome Powell said earlier this week that the case for raising the Fed's benchmark rate had weakened. Many economists and investors took that as a sign that a rate increase is unlikely any time in the coming months.

Swonk cautioned that some quirks likely inflated last month's job gain. For example, some of the furloughed federal workers and contractors who took part-time jobs during the 35-day government shutdown might have been counted as having two jobs during January. Now that the shutdown has ended, these people will go back

to being counted as having just one job beginning in February.

And for most of January, the weather was relatively warm in much of the United States, which likely boosted construction employment. Builders added 52,000 jobs, the most in nearly a year. The strong job market, though, is encouraging more people who weren't working to begin looking. The proportion of Americans who either have a job or are seeking one — which had been unusually low since the recession ended a decade ago — reached 63.2 percent in January, the highest level in more than five years.

Jessica Jacumin began a permanent job a month ago as a cook at an assisted living facility in Augusta, Georgia, after working there as a paid intern. Before that, she had been out of work and mostly not looking while she spent 18 months studying culinary arts at Helms College, a career school sponsored by Goodwill Industries.

Though Jacumin, 42, and

her husband both have Navy pensions, her new job has provided much-needed income and health insurance. That, in turn, has allowed their family to spend a bit more freely.

"I am right now planning our first family vacation in three years," she said.

Jacumin, her husband and three children will head to Hilton Head in South Carolina in July.

The partial government shutdown caused 800,000 workers to miss two paychecks. But because these workers will eventually receive back pay, they were counted as employed in the survey of businesses that produces the monthly job gain.

But in a separate survey of households that's used to calculate the unemployment rate, some of these people were counted as temporarily jobless. That's a key reason why the unemployment rate rose despite the healthy job gain.

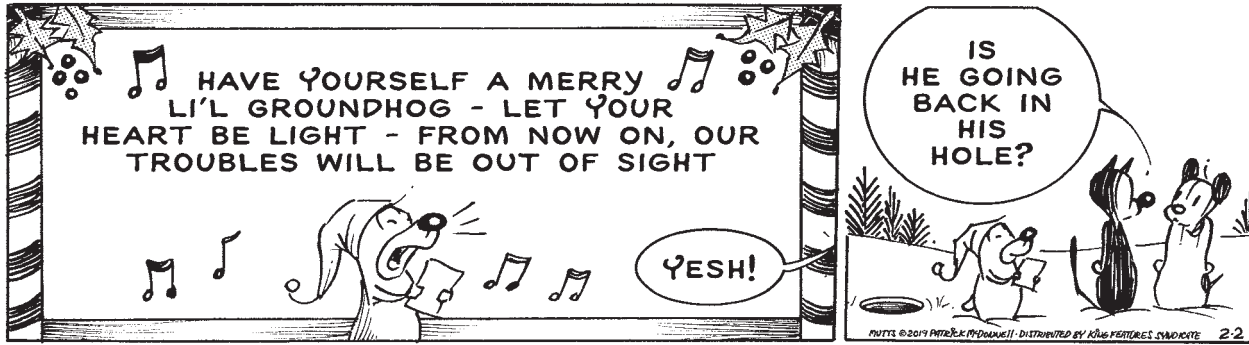
Most economists have forecast that the shutdown will likely slow economic growth for the first three months of this year. But some say that even businesses that lost income from the shutdown likely held onto their staffs, knowing that the shutdown would only be temporary. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the shutdown slowed annual growth for the January-March quarter by about 0.4 percentage point, to a rate of 2.1 percent, though that loss should lead to a bounce-back later this year.

The partial government shutdown has delayed the release of a range of government data about the economy, including statistics on housing, factory orders, and fourth-quarter growth.

The reports that have been released have been mixed. The Federal Reserve's industrial production report showed that manufacturing output rose in December by the most in nearly a year, boosted by auto production. But consumer confidence fell in January for a third straight month. □



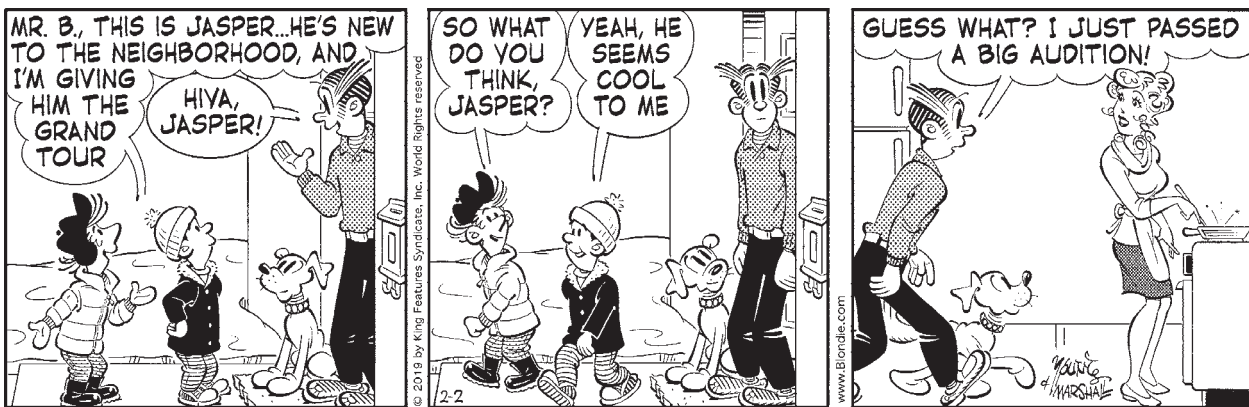
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

9	8				7		5
		4		5	3		
6							9
			4		2		
	2			1		9	
			8		9		
7							8
		6		2		4	
8		1			5		3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/02

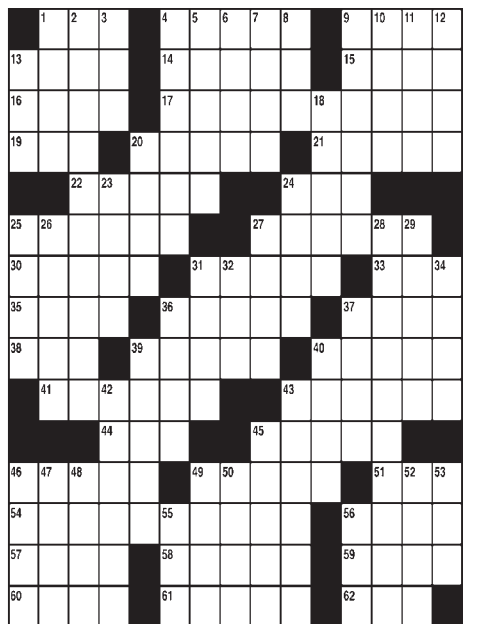
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	4	5	8	2	7	3	9	6
9	3	6	5	4	1	8	7	2
7	8	2	9	3	6	1	5	4
6	2	1	7	5	8	9	4	3
3	5	7	4	6	9	2	1	8
4	9	8	3	1	2	5	6	7
8	6	4	1	9	3	7	2	5
2	7	9	6	8	5	4	3	1
5	1	3	2	7	4	6	8	9

### ACROSS

- Prefix for like or mount
- Fireplace residue
- Diminishes
- Camp shelter
- "Be quiet!"
- Actor Wyle
- As \_\_\_ as pie
- Paint thinner
- Mr. Linkletter
- Trivial
- Lubricated
- \_\_\_ its ugly head; emerges
- UK network
- Crouches
- Gets some shut-eye
- Ill-gotten gain
- Sandbank
- "Caughtcha!"
- Quaker product
- Scale
- Boring event
- Fight result, for short
- Skier's incline
- Ointment
- Before this time, to a poet
- World \_\_\_; baseball season finale
- Get \_\_\_ of; eliminate
- Biblical bread from heaven
- "\_\_\_ John B"; Beach Boys hit
- Unable to see
- Speedometer letters
- "Alice in \_\_\_"
- Boyfriend
- Skillful
- Small weight
- In the past
- Playthings
- Cornered
- Gobbled up



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/2/19

### 3 Animal

- enclosure
- Fall flowers
- Closes
- Harm
- Notice
- Pronoun
- Tempt
- Cook lobster
- Source of woe
- Lean-to
- Drink served hot or cold
- Peace Prize
- Cracker spread
- All \_\_\_; listening
- Tell another's secret
- Narrow opening
- Natural disaster
- Partial amount
- British legislative body
- Use a razor
- Hard to teach
- Stylish
- Eras

### Friday's Puzzle Solved

FAIL	POLE	FETA
OWNED	UNIV	OAHU
RADIO	PEDICURES	
EYE	NAP	CORNET
	CRONY	TAT
FRIARY	BISHOP	
OASIS	PAINT	PEG
AVID	SLING	SPAN
LEO	THURS	PARKA
	SNARES	SANEST
	MEL	LURKS
STREET	UPS	SOB
COUNSELOR	OLIVE	
AGED	ROLE	NEVER
BOSS	SPED	TENT

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2/2/19

### DOWN

- Precious
- Teacher

- Slap
- Mexican wolf
- Exclusively
- Make indistinct
- Path
- Rate of speed
- Color
- Decay
- Deadly critter



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\*WK. 51 OV \$39k  
\*WK 52 OV \$46k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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# Ocean mixing that drives climate found in surprise location

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the key drivers of the world's climate is an area in the North Atlantic Ocean where warmer and colder water mix and swirl. When scientists went for their first close look at this critical underwater dynamo, they found they were looking in the wrong place.

By hundreds of miles.

The consequences are not quite yet understood, but eventually it could change forecasts of one of the worst-case global warming scenarios — still considered unlikely this century — in which the mixing stops and climate chaos ensues.

It's called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, and scientists describe it as a giant ocean conveyor belt that moves water from Greenland south to beyond the tip of Africa and into the Indian Ocean.

Warm, salty water near the surface moves north and mixes with cold, fresher water near Greenland. As that water cools and sinks it drives a slow circulation of the oceans that is critical to global climate, affecting the location of droughts and frequency of hurricanes. It also stores heat-trapping carbon dioxide deep in the ocean. The faster it moves, the more warm water gets sent into the depths to cool.

The area where warm water turns over in the North Atlantic is considered to be the engine of the conveyor belt. Scientists thought it was in the Labrador Sea west of Greenland.

But then a new international science team measured temperature, saltiness and the speed of ocean currents throughout the North



In this September 2018 photo provided by researcher Isabela Le Bras, a probe which collects water samples and measures temperature, salinity and pressure is prepared for deployment on the continental shelf of Greenland.

Associated Press

Atlantic to try to better understand the conveyor belt. The preliminary results after hundreds of measurements in 21 months found that engine was several hundreds of miles east of where they figured, said study lead author Susan Lozier, an ocean sciences professor at Duke University. The study, published in Thursday's journal Science, puts it east of Greenland, closer to Scotland. The

computer simulations that predict how the climate could change in coming years didn't factor in exactly where the conveyor belt engine is, and now they may be able to. Lozier and several outside experts said this doesn't change their trust in the models, especially because when the models are checked with what is happening in the real world, they are found to be generally accurate.

"It doesn't mean that the models are all wrong at all," said Tom Delworth, a senior scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's geophysical lab in Princeton, New Jersey.

MIT's Carl Wunsch and other outside experts said the study was helpful, but pointed out that 21 months of study is not enough to know if this different location is temporary or perma-

nent.

Scientists have long feared that the conveyor belt could be slowing and, in a worst-case scenario, could even stop and cause abrupt and catastrophic climate change. It is considered a potential climate tipping point that was the premise of the scientifically inaccurate 2004 disaster movie "The Day After Tomorrow."

Based on computer model studies, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in an earlier study it is "very unlikely" that the conveyor belt would collapse this century. But the Nobel Prize-winning scientific panel concluded it is likely to get about a third slower if greenhouse gas emissions continue at its current pace.

A study last year found that global warming is weakening the system, saying the conveyor belt was moving at its slowest speed in nearly 140 years of records.

"Our basic understanding that the collapse is unlikely still stands," said Delworth, who wasn't part of the study. "Our uncertainty about that prediction is high." □



In this Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019 photo, a rescued flamingo chick tries to walk at a centre in Pretoria, South Africa, after being rescued from a dried out dam in Kimberley.

Associated Press

## Special airlift for baby flamingos in peril in South Africa

By KEVIN SUTHERLAND

Associated Press

KIMBERLEY, South Africa (AP) — A special airlift for thousands of baby flamingos is under way in South Africa as drought has put their breeding ground in peril.

A reservoir that hosts one of southern Africa's largest flamingo populations is drying up. The flamingo eggs are losing their cool, moist protective cover and their inner membranes are hardening, making it difficult for chicks to peck their way out. Predators such as meerkats, dogs and hawks are nearby, waiting for the exhausted chicks to emerge.

The site is littered with the

bodies of hundreds of dead chicks. The cheeps of chicks trapped inside overheating eggs can be heard.

Local and national groups, along with environmental authorities, have stepped in for the rescue operation swiftly organized online and by word of mouth. Bird experts and veterinarians have pitched in.

Local diamond mines paid for an emergency flight to carry the first batch of 900 chicks to the capital, Pretoria. Other batches have been flown to Cape Town and other approved locations.

Three thousand flamingo chicks have been moved in all. Another 6,000 to

8,000 young flamingos remain at the reservoir near Kimberley, active but still too young to fly. If the water levels keep dropping, experts said, the parents might abandon the chicks to save themselves.

The chicks in new homes face a special diet of baby cereal, sardines, eggs, prawns and vitamin supplements.

To simulate parents, feather dusters are placed in the chicks' boxes. Interaction with humans is restricted beyond feeding to minimize imprinting. Infrared lights give warmth.

Some of the chicks' rescuers are already thinking about next year and what to do if drought occurs again. □

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# Luis Fonsi releases his 1st album in post-'Despacito' era

By **SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two years ago he made the whole world dance with "Despacito," but Luis Fonsi says he is still a romantic singer and is ready to show "all his cards" Friday with his new album, "Vida."

"Many people thought I moved away from that romantic side and I always said 'I haven't, I'm not going anywhere.' I am still a romantic singer, I still talk that romantic language. But at the same time I like to do both things. I don't like to be limited," Fonsi said in a recent interview with The Associated Press, in Spanish.

"Vida" is his ninth studio album and his first in five years, a time of big changes in his life and his career — especially since 2016, when the birth of his son Rocco overlapped with that of the song that gave him international stardom and a broader exposure to Latin



In this May 20, 2018 file photo, Luis Fonsi arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas. Fonsi will release a new album, "Vida," on Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

music. The original "Despacito" video, featuring Daddy Yankee, is still the most watched in the history of YouTube with over 5.9 billion views to date; its remix with Justin Bieber remains

among the top three songs on Billboard's list of Hot Latin Songs.

Both versions are included in the album, along with the previously-released singles "Echame la culpa" with

Demi Lovato, "Calypso" with Stefflon Don, "Imposible" with Ozuna and "Sola". It also includes new romantic songs and one powerful torch song that challenged Fonsi's vocal chords. One of

the most personal pieces is "Ahi estas tu," which he wrote to his son Rocco. (His previous album, "8," included a tune for his daughter Mikaela.)

There are 15 songs total that cover or fuse Latin pop, R&B, dembow, reggaeton and other genres.

"I want to be able to dance, make people rejoice, and sometimes sing a ballad with a lot of lyric, a lot of emotion," said the Puerto Rican singer-songwriter.

The touching R&B-infused, piano-led ballad "Dime que no te irás" is also, according to Fonsi, the most difficult to perform vocally. It "is one of the songs with more weight in this album", he said. "It's one of those songs that may not have the commercial value of others, but it does have the musical and emotional value."

He also highlighted his latest single, "Sola," a ballad that you may not hear in a club but that will make you nod to its beat. □

# Grammys launch initiative aiding women producers, engineers

By **MESFIN FEKADU**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Recording Academy's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion is launching a new initiative to create and expand more opportunities to female music producers and engineers.

The academy on Friday announced the Producer & Engineer Inclusion Initiative, which asks that musicians, record labels and others consider at least two female producers or engineers when working on a project, whether it's a song or an album.

More than 200 have already pledged and are committed to the ask, including Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Pearl Jam, Quincy Jones, Pharrell Williams, John Legend, Ariana Grande, Common, Pink, Nicki Minaj and Shawn Mendes.

"It's a really important step to make sure you're considering a diverse slate when you're going to pick a producer or engineer," said



This photo combo of file photos shows Lady Gaga, Pharrell Williams and Justin Bieber.

Associated Press

Tina Tchen, chair of the academy's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, in an interview with The Associated Press. "Pick whoever you want, because we want people to make their own artistic decisions, but we do know the more that women are included in the mix and get a look at and are seen, then doors are going to open up.

"And that's what this is about — making sure all of

those doors of opportunities are open to everyone and that women who for so long really haven't had their shot can get a fair shot."

The initiative comes after last year's USC Annenberg study, which said only 2 percent of music producers and 3 percent of engineers are women. Others who have signed on to the new call-to-action include Jennifer Lopez, Maroon

5, Carrie Underwood, the Killers, Kacey Musgraves, Meek Mill, Usher and Selena Gomez. Multiple music producers, record labels, management companies and agencies are also on board.

"It's not just about the artists that we know, but it's the behind-the-scenes folks who are involved: other producers and engineers, the labels, the studios, the agents, the publishers rec-

ognizing that they all have a role to play and they can all play a positive role in the change that needs to be made," said Tchen, who was the chief of staff to former first lady Michelle Obama and is a partner at Buckley LLP.

The academy announced the new task force last year after Grammys CEO Neil Portnow said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of female winners backstage at the 2018 Grammys. Only two female performers won awards during the live telecast and the Grammys were criticized for not letting singer Lorde, the only woman nominated for album of the year, perform at the show.

Portnow called his comments a "poor choice of words" and later announced he would leave his post this year.

This year's Grammys, however, include more female nominees in the top categories. □



# Gina Rodriguez deserves more than bland 'Miss Bala'

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

If you've ever watched TV's hugely entertaining "Jane the Virgin," you'll know that its star, Gina Rodriguez, is one of the most engaging, charismatic and relatable actresses out there.

It was only a matter of time before she headlined a big-studio movie — a truly welcome development. But Rodriguez and her fans deserve better than "Miss Bala," a disappointingly bland and formulaic Hollywood remake of a much grittier and bleaker Mexican thriller.

No discredit to Rodriguez, of course, who remains genuine and appealing in scene after scene where her character, a Mexican-American makeup artist, is tasked with finding her way out of the most terrifying jams. And it's undeniably satisfying, in one climactic scene, to watch her saunter in a satiny red, high-slit evening gown, settling scores with the villainous men around her.

But if you're looking for a movie with something substantive to say about



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Gina Rodríguez, left, and Ismael Cruz in a scene from "Miss Bala."

Associated Press

Mexico and drug wars and, well, anything but a PG-13 "You go, girl!" action film, you won't find it here. Director Catherine Hardwicke ("Twilight") does a fine enough job staging action sequences and keeping the pace; the script has far bigger issues, with lines that are often banal and ach-

ingly predictable.

We first meet Gloria (Rodriguez) in Los Angeles, where she has a backstage makeup job at Fashion Week. But she aspires to much more. Proposing her design ideas, she's met with a snide retort from a male boss: "Honey, we're not paying you to think." Discouraged, she

swipes some free makeup and heads down to visit her childhood best friend, Suzu, in Tijuana.

Their goal: securing a victory for Suzu in the local beauty pageant, which will lead to a better life for her and her young brother. After registering, the two women head out for an

evening of networking at a swishy nightclub, where they hope to rub elbows with the pageant's lecherous and corrupt patron.

But minutes after they arrive, a gaggle of gangsters intent on killing the patron force their way in — through the ladies room window! — and a huge shootout ensues. Suzu is kidnapped, and Gloria sets out on a desperate quest to find her. A corrupt police officer hands her right over to the gunmen, led by the menacingly handsome, blue-eyed Lino (Ismael Cruz Cordova, a charismatic actor doing his best with a cardboard role).

Lino demands a favor in return for helping Gloria. As always here, declining an offer means death. This leads to her unwittingly bombing a DEA safehouse. When she manages to escape Lino's clutches soon after, she falls directly into the hands of a DEA agent (Matt Lauria). Hardly a knight in shining armor, the American threatens her with years in jail or much worse, unless she cooperates.

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SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:40  
SUN 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:30  
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:10  
SAT-SUN 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10

**THE KID KING**  
LOUIS ASHBORNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN 1:25 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10  
SPANISH  
MON-FRI 4:30  
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:30

**SERENITY**  
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY | ANNE HATHAWAY  
MON-THU & SUN 7:05 | 9:25  
FRI-SAT 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45

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JANDINO ASPORAAT | LILIANA DE VRIES  
DUTCH  
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SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35  
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## The Motet brews funky grooves on 'Death or Devotion'



This cover image released by The Motet shows "Death or Devotion," by The Motet.

Associated Press

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

The Motet, "Death or Devotion" (The Motet)

Unsuspecting listeners may

stumble into "Death or Devotion" and, based on first impressions, figure that it's a lost funk/soul gem from the late 1970s. They may even guess The Motet is a band whose only album — maybe long out-of-print or even hardly ever in-print — was discovered by a crate-digging DJ in a basement record store in Brooklyn or Los Angeles.

In fact, The Motet is a Denver-based septet that's been around for nearly two decades and "Death or Devotion" is the band's ninth studio album. It is a funk/soul gem, but luckily it's not at all lost.

Already on lead track "Highly Compatible," The Motet's intentions are clear. Strings, horn accents, vintage keyboard sounds, funky bass grooves and Lyle Divinsky's vocals are all at the ser-

vice of a smooth flow that's dancefloor ready and a fun listen to boot.

The album's first single, "Whacha Gonna Bring," besides conveying a message of tolerance and understanding, was tied to efforts to sign up voters for last year's mid-term election. While the album's title isn't directly mentioned in the single's lyrics, the song attempts to inspire some reflection and make us more conscious about the choices we make and the attitudes we assume.

There's a lot of positivity in the songs, plenty of passion — both idealist and sensual — and it all comes full circle with the nearly instrumental "Speed of Light," which sounds like a Rick James riff done like Daft Punk where even the usually overused vocoder fits the bill.



# Mariah Carey shakes off boycott calls for her Saudi concert

By AYA BATRAWY

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Mariah Carey, one of the world's most celebrated artists, is performing in Saudi Arabia on Thursday for the first time, but there's a growing chorus of Saudi women calling on her to cancel the concert to show support for detained women's rights activists.

Carey is the highest-profile star to perform in the kingdom since it began loosening decades of restrictions on entertainment, music and fun as part of a push by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to overhaul the economy and transform society.

But activists say her concert is an attempt by the government to polish its image after the Oct. 2 killing of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

It's a dilemma that other celebrities could face as they ink multimillion dollar deals to perform in Saudi Arabia. The kingdom's General Entertainment Authority has promised a roster of major performances and sports exhibitions by the world's biggest names.

Carey's publicists told The Associated Press in a statement that when "presented with the offer to perform for an international and mixed gender audience in Saudi Arabia, Mariah accepted the opportunity as a positive step towards the dissolution of gender segregation."

"As the first female international artist to perform in Saudi Arabia, Mariah recognizes the cultural significance of this event and will continue to support global efforts towards equality for all," the statement said, adding that Carey looks forward to bringing inspiration and encouragement to all audiences.

In December, the kingdom hosted a Formula-E car race in Riyadh, where thousands of young Saudis and hundreds of international visitors partied into the night at concerts by Enrique Iglesias, The Black Eyed Peas and DJ David



In this Jan. 7, 2018, file photo, Mariah Carey arrives at the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Guetta.

Omaima Al-Najjar, a Saudi woman who fled the kingdom to seek political refuge abroad, said the concerts are a diversion from the Saudi-led war in Yemen against the neighboring country's Houthi rebels, human rights abuses committed under the crown prince and repressive male guardianship laws that restrict women's freedoms.

"The Saudi government is using entertainment to distract the people from human rights abuses because it can sense the anger among the public," she said.

Al-Najjar is a co-founder of Women for Rights in Saudi Arabia, or WARSA, which launched a petition calling on Carey to boycott the country. The petition aimed to publicly pressure Carey because "she has power to stand for women ... as an artist and as a female," Al-Najjar said.

Activists are tweeting at Carey directly, urging her to take notice of the prominent Saudi women's rights activists imprisoned since

May who had long campaigned for social changes and women's empowerment. The women, who include activists in their 20s as well as mothers, grandmothers and retired professors, have been accused of vague national security violations in connection to their human rights work.

Al-Najjar said artists like Carey should make their performances in Saudi Arabia conditional on the release of the women's rights activists. A boycott would not impact ordinary Saudis because many cannot afford the concert's ticket prices anyway, she said.

Tickets for Carey's concert start at around \$80, and VIP seats — already sold out — cost \$530. The average monthly wage for Saudis is around \$2,600, according to the General Authority for Statistics.

Alia al-Hathloul called on Mariah Carey to remember her sister, Loujain al-Hathloul, who she says has been abused and threatened with death while in detention because of her activism, which included

defying the kingdom's ban on women driving before it was lifted last year.

"Remember, thanks to my sister @LoujainHathloul, you're able to perform in Saudi Arabia. I wish she can attend your concert. But she's locked behind bars because she tried to improve women's condition. Don't forget to thank her on stage," she wrote to Carey on Twitter.

Saudi female artist Ms Safaa wrote on Twitter: "Will @MariahCarey be singing 'It's a long road when u face the world alone. No one reaches out a hand 4 u 2 hold' to imprisoned female #Saudi activists @LoujainHathloul, @Saudiwoman, & @azizayousef?"

Both women, as well as Al-Najjar, made their pleas from abroad, where they do not face the prospect of arrest for speaking out.

Carey is to perform at King Abdullah Economic City, a two-hour drive north of Islam's holiest site of Mecca. The Economic City, built as a sort-of enclave for foreigners and Saudis, is gated and can only be en-

tered with permission from security.

The concert, which includes DJ Tiesto, has also drawn the ire of some ultraconservatives on Twitter, angered that it is taking place in the greater region of Mecca.

The General Entertainment Authority's online flyer for Carey's concert shows her only from the waist up, with a red scarf draped over her arms. Women in Saudi Arabia are required to wear loose, long black robes known as abayas in public. Most Saudi women also cover their hair and face. Still, a concert like this would have been unthinkable until recently. Religious police used to enforce strict gender segregation, scolded women for not covering their hair and barged into restaurants to demand music be turned off.

The changes have a powerful backer in the crown prince, who is seeking to boost domestic spending and draw attention to his reforms.

Efforts to brand him a reformer took a hit after Saudi agents close to the crown prince killed and dismembered Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist who was critical of the prince's crackdown on dissent. The U.S. Senate and U.S. intelligence have blamed the crown prince for the killing, but Saudi Arabia insists he had no involvement.

Thursday night's concert is taking place at the Saudi International golf tournament. The European Tour has drawn several of golf's biggest stars, including four of the top five players in the world.

The purse is \$3.5 million, though the primary income for these players is appearance money, likely to be in the \$1 million range for the biggest names.

The golfing champions signed up to play for the European Tour event last April, well before Saudi agents killed Khashoggi. Even so, at least one big-name player pulled back. UNICEF ambassador Paul Casey has also said he'd "sit this one out." □



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